

## TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



### HANDLING SEED OF *VITEX KENIENSIS* (MFURU)

Seed Issue Note No. (15) 1995

#### Temporary storage

Properly dried "nuts" can be stored at room temperature for about one year.

#### Treatment before sowing

Soak the nuts in cold water for 24 hrs. Change water after 12 hours.

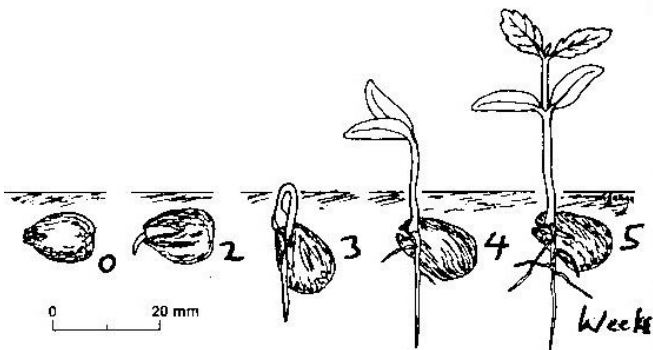
#### Sowing

A space about 1.5 cm should be left between the nuts. This will give sowing density of 4,500 nuts per m<sup>2</sup> of seed bed corresponding to approx 2 kg of nuts per m<sup>2</sup> seed bed. Seeds should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

#### Germination

The germination process takes long time. At the 3rd week after sowing the root comes out (see drawing). One "nut" may produce more than one seedling. The germination reaches 30% after 5 weeks and 60% after 8 weeks.

One kg contains 2,500 nuts and may produce 1,500 seedlings under ideal conditions. In many cases only 1,000 seedlings per kg of nuts will be obtained. Transplanting into pots can take place when the seedling has appearance shown at week 5 in the drawing.



Stages in the Germination of *Vitex keniensis* seed

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