

Technical Bulletin #73:

Tree Seed Treatment and Germination

Seed Types

Seed treatment can be done in many ways depending on the type of seed and often depends on conditions such as the thickness and hardness of the pods or seed coat. These conditions will also influence whether seeds can be kept for a long time or whether they decay quickly.



Orthodox seeds (Fig. 1)

Fig. 1



Recalcitrant seeds (decay quickly) (Fig. 2)



Fig. 2

Seed Treatment

Seeds still need to be dried in the sun (Fig. 3).

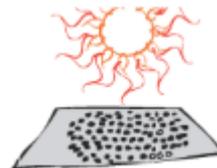


Fig. 3

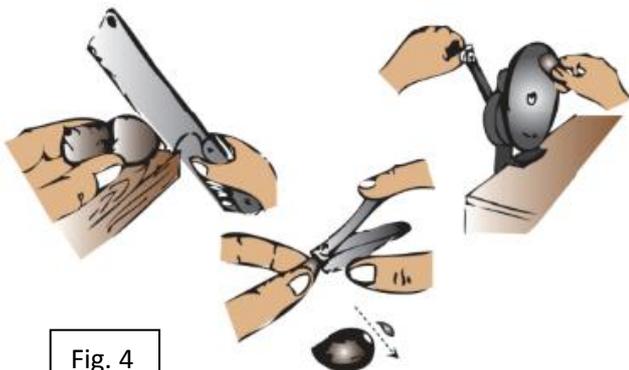


Fig. 4

Seeds can be treated in a variety of ways. Some need trimming before soaking. Trimming consists of cutting, chipping or scarifying the seeds (Fig. 4).



Fig. 5

Afterwards, seeds need to be soaked in room temperature water for 1-2 days (depending on the thickness of the coat) or in hot water (70-80°C) for 1-2 minutes (Fig. 5).

After soaking, clean the seeds and place them in a humid sack or garment (Fig. 6).

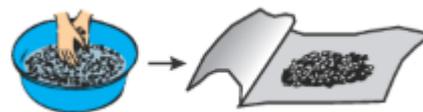


Fig. 6

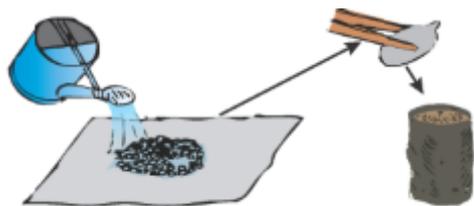


Fig. 7

Finally, check and clean the seeds every day, keeping them humid at all times, until they begin to sprout. Then plant them in a prepared container or sow them in a nursery bed (Fig. 7).

Treated seeds should be checked frequently and planted once they germinate to prevent the root from becoming too long (Fig. 8).

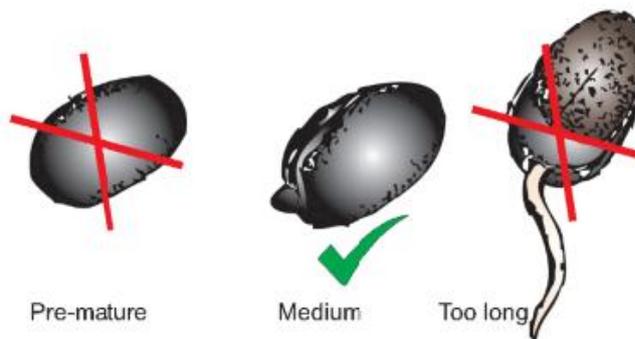


Fig. 8

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