

Handling practices of Teak seeds

Scientific Name	: Tectona grandis.
Habit	: Moderately fast growing tree attaining a height of more than 50 m.
Flowering	: May - June & November - December.
Seed morphology	: The fruit is drupe. Each fruit may contain 0 to 4 seeds.
Period of Collection	: February - April.
Method of Collection	: Fruits are collected from the ground and kept clean for the purpose.
Seed processing	: The loose papery calyx is removed by rubbing the fruits in a gunny bag and then they are winnowed. The clean fruits are graded by passing through sieves with mesh size 9 mm. Fruits above 9 mm are used for sowing and storing.
Number of seeds/kg	: 1,400 - 2,000
Seed pre-treatment	: Alternate wetting and drying for 7 days. This can be done in three different ways.
Wetting in gunny bags	: Fruits are filled in moist gunny bags kept moist throughout the night (5 pm - 8 am).
Wetting in heap	: Fruits are heaped and kept moist by covering with moist gunny bags (5 pm - 8 am).
Wetting in thick bed	: Fruits spread on the floor as a thick bed (5 cm thickness) and covered with moist gunny bags (5 pm - 8 am).

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Drying	: Drying is by spreading the fruits in the open under direct sunlight (8 am - 5 pm).
Termite treatment	: Fruits are spread over a termite infested substratum protected from rains. Termites consume the mesocarp and part of the endocarp in about 11 to 13 days by which the pre-treated fruits are ready for germination.
Seed germination	: Seeds have post harvest maturity. Seeds stored for above 45 days after collection, help to improve germinability. Germination starts from 5th day of sowing and continues upto 45 days. A maximum germination percentage of 40 can be expected from good quality graded seeds.
Planting stock production	
Stumps	: Prepared from one year old seedlings pulled out of the nursery beds. Girth at collar portion that of thumb size (1.5 - 2 cm) with shoot length 2.5 cm and root length 15 - 20 cm.
Polypotted seedlings	: Pre-germinated seeds pricked out to 10 x 20 cm poly bags filled with soil, sand and FYM (3:2:1). 90 days old graded poly bag seedlings used for planting.
Root trainer seedlings	: Sprouted seeds pricked out to 150 cc root trainers filled with potting mixture. 90 days old root trainer seedlings after grading could be used for planting.