

Lucerne Tree Farm

Food that grows on trees

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Lucerne Tree Seeds Germination Instructions

Lucerne tree seeds (*Tagasaste - Chamaecytisus palmensis*) are naturally very hard-shelled seeds and require a process called scarification to encourage germination. We recommend a 2-part process where you nick or cut the edge of each seed before soaking the seeds in hot tap water overnight to weaken the hard seed coat of the seed to encourage germination. Only start the germination process when you are ready to plant your seeds into seed trays or potting bags. Work with batches of + 100 seeds at a time.



1. Nick the edge of each seed with a nail clipper or sharp blade. Only cut off the edge of the seed coat and do not cut into the seed itself. Do not cut the bottom white germ edge.
2. Soak nicked seeds in a bowl filled with hot tap water overnight.
3. You can inoculate your seeds the next morning with Groundnut & Cowpea Group Inoculant which contains *Bradyrhizobium sp. (Vigna)* bacteria, a bacterial legume inoculant.
4. Plant out the swollen seeds the same day.
5. Prepare seed trays or potting bags filled with coarse river sand with holes for drainage. Do NOT use potting soil.
6. Use a stick & make rows roughly 5mm (0.5cm) deep and place the seeds in these rows & cover lightly with sand.
7. Water lightly regularly & do not let the soil dry out.
8. The seeds usually germinate within 15 days.
9. Wait at least 40 days for maximum germination before potting out seedlings into individual 1-litre potting bags.
10. Dig deep under the seedling roots to loosen the soil and gently lift seedling out of the potting soil. Do not pull the seedlings up from the tray as this will damage the roots.
11. Water regularly and wait till these trees are at least 40cm tall with pencil-thick stems before planting them out in your lands.
12. Keep watering the remaining germination trays even if the seeds did not germinate as slower seeds may still germinate!

You will find all our step-by-step germination instructions with detailed photos on our website
~ <https://lucernetreefarm.wordpress.com/seeds/>

Life is in the seed!

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