

Growing Members of the Ebony Family from Seed

Preparation:

The seeds have a hard coat, so will require pre-treatment in order to ensure even germination. Firstly scratch the seed coat using sandpaper or a file, so as to damage the coat. Then soak the seeds for 24 – 48 hours in lukewarm water.

Sowing:

Sow the seeds in pots of good quality seed compost and cover to a depth equal to the diameter of the seed. Water, seal in a polythene bag and place somewhere where a temperature of 70 – 80 Deg F can be maintained. Germination takes around 5 – 8 weeks for treated seeds, longer where they have not been treated. Germination should not be considered a failure until at least 2 seasons have passed as in the wild they can take this long to come up.

Growing on:

Once germinated, grow on in light conditions, allowing some air into the bags. Once the seedlings are large enough to handle, transplant to deep pots and grow on. They have a deep root system and dislike disturbance. When re-potting try to disturb the roots as little as possible to avoid checking the growth.