

## Propagating Commiphora by seeds

Some seeds (for example unilobata, longipeccellata) don't need any special treatment or preparation before sowing. These seeds are big and fleshy compared with other species.

There is a special phenomenon with Commiphora unilobata and longipedecallata.

When harvesting the fruits, the drupe is closed. During the drying process the drupe is opening after some days and it looks like the seed is getting spoiled or eaten by insects. Don't get worried this a normal process and the seeds are still viable.

There are some other seeds with a very hard drupe, for example Commiphora holtziana, boranensis, kua, incisa. These seeds should be soaked before sowing them.

There are different methods of treatment. You can use hot water for soaking them and provide a temperature around 80°C for 24 to 72 hours. You can use vinegar or Gibberellic acid. I even heard from a friend that he was soaking the seeds for 48 hours in Coca-Cola. I never tried this. Also I heard of the use of sulfuric acid.

There are mechanic treatments like nicking the seed or using a file.

If the seeds are very fresh they might not germinate. They might have a germination blocker. With my experience sometimes it can take up to 4 years until they germinate (have the same experience with Uncarina, Lannea, Adansonia and some Cyphostemma).

Use a drained soil medium. I use 90% pumice (grade 1-6 mm) and 10% organic soil.

The pots or trays have to be well watered. The seeds should be covered with a light top-dressing material (I use pumice), to avoid drying. If the sowing bed is getting to dry the germination process can stop.

If you sow the seeds during the summer months (July/August in middle Europe) there is no need of bottom heat. The best germination is at temperatures from 35° Celsius and higher. The humidity has to have a range of 50 -80%. If it's too high the seeds might rot and get infected by fungus. If it's too low there will be a delay in germination.

To get compact seedling you should provide enough sunlight, otherwise the seedlings will grow too tall.