



NOTES FROM THE UNAFAS CVP TREE NURSERY, ON HOW TO GERMINATE AND NURSE USEFUL TREE SPECIES OF CAMEROON

Four corners / Aiden tree / Sweet achu spice.

Scientific Name – *Tetrapleura tetraptera*

[Link to seedling photo](#)

A large tree that reaches 20-25 m high and 1.5-3 m girth. In open spaces the crown spreads. It is good to plant in a village square, middle of a compound, or pasture, ornamental, and for shade.

Nursery technique

Seeds from fruit bought in the market have often been dried over fire and will not germinate. If they are air dried or fresh then they will germinate and grow.

Fruit falls from the tree intact. Seeds can be extracted by cutting the wing of the fruit, taking care not to cut the seed.

If the whole fruit is planted, or parts of it remain on the seeds, it will attract insects and rodents to your nursery. They will eat the seeds and do other damage.

- Make a seed bed with good, loose soil at least 40 cm deep.
- Place the seeds, evenly, all over the surface, then cover with 1-2 cm of soil.
- When seedlings are as tall as your hand is long, then gently transfer to medium size bags or containers. The roots are delicate, which makes it important to dig up all the soil around the seedling and carefully transfer this in one piece, into the bag. If the soil scatters, the roots can get broken and destroyed, causing the plant to die.
- Water, weed and increase the spacing between seedlings as they grow. If the soil becomes compact or depleted then add soil or re-pot.
- Use a thatch roof or other system to protect the seed bed and seedlings from heavy rain.
- Seedlings are ready to transplant when they are taller than your knee is high.

NOTES