



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

Mahogany

the name mahogany is used for many species, we refer to species below.

Scientific Names – *Entandrophragma angolense* / *E. utile* / *E. cylindricum*

Slow growing, reaching 65 m tall, with straight stem (diameter up to 2.5 m), and compact crown.

Seeds of these species do not store well. As soon as they fall from the parent tree insects start to enter, eat, lay eggs and destroy the seeds. Collecting seeds as soon as they fall and storing in a bag or box with wood ash helps preserve them. Sow within days rather than weeks.

Can be planted to control erosion as well as for timber and as a grand ornamental tree.

Biophysical limits. The three species vary - Mean annual temperature – 24-26°C. Mean annual rainfall 1400-2500 mm. Altitude, 0–1400 m.

Nursery technique

- Fill medium or large pots or containers with soil.
- Water them until the soil is damp right through to the bottom.
- Place one or two seeds in each container, so that the round seed is just covered with soil with the long wing / tail extending upwards. Burying the seed seems to deter mice and other rodents from eating it.
- Roots are produced before any shoots appear – so do not dig up or poke around the seeds to see if they are germinating or not as this can easily damage and destroy delicate roots or shoot buds.
- Seedlings should be protected from heavy rainfall. Build a thatch roof above or lay thatch over pots / young plants.
- Seeds germinate and seedlings grow best in the sun, not the shade.
- Seedlings are ready to transplant when they are knee or waist high – 6-24 months old.
- If the roots grow out of the bottom of the containers, cut them back with a sharp knife and transfer to larger containers. The roots will grow back.
- Seedlings should be spaced so that the leaves do not overlap each other.
- Roots can be pruned to the size of the planting hole – 40 x 40 x 40 cm.