

Delonix species

Delonix regia – Red Poinciana

Delonix regia flava – Yellow Poinciana

Propagation is straightforward although seed needs to be soaked overnight in hot water to overcome the hard seed coating. Start with water at just off boiling point and let the seed soak overnight. Seeds should take in water and swell when soaked. Some seed may need to soak more than once to cause it to swell.

Sow seed in a medium of one-part coarse sand, one-part fine sand and one-part chopped peat moss. Sow the seed sideways and cover lightly to the depth of the diameter of the seed. Germination occurs from the end of the seed.

These are deep-rooting trees so prick out at about 5cm into a larger pot or tube with a depth of at least 10cm. Grow on until at least 50cm and plant out in a full sun position in any well-drained soil with a neutral pH.

In siting the tree in its final position remember that they develop pronounced surface roots that are a problem to footpaths and nearby paved areas, allow at least 2m clearance.

