

Elaeocarpus species

Elaeocarpus grandis
Elaeocarpus queenslandica
Elaeocarpus obovatus
Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Elaeocarpus seeds have an extremely hard seed coat and if planted without breaking this external layer, germination can take up to 2 years. There are quite a few options that could be used to speed up this process, I think that it's best to experiment with what works best for you and use that method.

Sterilisation, Pre-treatment and Sowing

Sterilisation

Fill a large container in a 10% Bleach and water solution and mix to make sure the seed pods are wet and leave to soak for up to 45 minutes, rinse seed pods with cooled boiled rainwater.

Pre-treatment options

- Fresh stones are best and they can be filed before propagation, these can also be slow to germinated taking up to 12 months
- Soak the whole seed pods in water for about 2 weeks and crack them (with a nut cracker or something similar) to remove the seeds from sowing.
- No pre-treatment option - without any scarification and to sow the stones into tubes and keep them moist whilst waiting for germination to begin
- Place seed pods in a zip lock bag with vermiculite and incubate in the dark (a dark cupboard is ideal) at 15 – 23°C with 18 - 20°C being optimal. Examine twice weekly and remove any germinated seed when the root radical is 1cm long). Plant the germinated seed directly into the ground or pot.

Propagation

Use a low phosphate, free draining potting media. A potting mix of peat moss, washed river sand with added low phosphate slow release fertilizer is a suitable media.

Choose a pot suitable to the tap root which can get quite long quite fast, tubes are a great option before potting onto a larger pot.

Sow seedpod or seeds as deep as they large and cover, keep the media moist at all times and keep an eye out for germination.