

Santalum species

Propagation and cultivation can be difficult but not impossible, seed does have a dormancy and germination strike rate is quite low. Aging the seed can increase strike rates

PRE-TREATMENT – The testa needs to be broken to induce germination, this can be done carefully with a vice.

SOWING – Use a good quality Australian native propagation mix and sow seed as deep as it is wide into individual tubes/small pots or trays.

Best time to sow is late Autumn to Winter, the optimum temperature for germination is 15°C.

Water and avoid seed disturbance, keep medium moist but not wet.

Germination can begin in one month but can take over four months.

When the cotyledons have hardened pot the seedling into a free draining media with half strength combined slow and moderate fertilizer, the seed energy reserves will sustain growth until established.

CULTIVATION – A host plant must be made available, it is best to use a locally indigenous grass or flowering pea, this needs to be planted within range of the roots of at least two potential hosts. Ensure that there is a few metres distance between the surrounding trees so its natural form can be achieved in full sun.