

Bauhinia/Lysiphyllum species

Bauhinia are not a difficult species to grow from seed. Seed germinates readily and germination should take no more than 10 to 21 days.

The seed should be immersed in hand-hot water and soaked for 24 to 48 hours. Seeds should become swollen from taking up water. Water penetration can be sped up by lightly clipping the edge of the seed to expose a small portion of the white testa below the outer seed coat, or by pricking the hard seed coat with a pin.

Swollen seeds should be sown immediately.

Any seeds that have not swollen should be re-soaked and this procedure repeated until they do swell.

The soaked, swollen seeds are then planted directly into trays or pots filled with a mixture of river sand and compost (5:1). A well-drained medium is desirable to avoid fungal attack.

Seed should be sown to a depth of no more than 3mm.

Germination can take from 14 to 28 days at 22 to 25°C, LONGER IF THE AMBIENT DAYTIME TEMPERATURE IS LOWER.

If sown in flat seedling trays, the seedlings must be planted out into bags at an early stage as they soon develop a long taproot. Grow the seedling on until it is at least 10-15cm in height and then transplant to its final position. Transplanting should preferably take place after the danger of frost has passed to allow the seedling the best possibilities of success.

Site in a full sun position in virtually any soil, although a light loamy soil is preferred. Drainage should be good to maximise prospects.

Species:

Bauhinia variegata ssp *purpureum* (purple and white)

Bauhinia variegata var *candida* syn *alba*

Bauhinia galpinii (red)

Bauhinia monandra (pink)

Bauhinia purpurea (deep purple)

Bauhinia corymbosa syn *scandens* (coral vine)

Lysiphyllum hookeri syn *Bauhinia hookeri* (white with red stamens)

