Delonix decaryi – Madagascan Bottle Tree

Native to Madagascar, this bottle tree is a beautiful flowering tree.

Propagation

Propagation is straightforward although seed needs to be soaked overnight in hot water to overcome the very hard seed coating to allow the seeds to take up water. Start with water at just off boiling point and let the seed soak overnight and swell. If a seed does not swell, then it should be soaked again - at times it can take several soakings for an individual seed to swell.

Sow the swollen 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 no more than the diameter of the seed. Germination occurs from the end of the seed.

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