

# Papaya Seed Notes

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If not used immediately, papaya seed should be stored in an airtight container in a place of low constant temperature. The crisper section of a domestic fridge is ideal. Do not store at under 4oC, i.e. do not freeze.

The main factors that adversely affect long-term storage of seed are fluctuating temperatures, exposure to humidity (i.e. the open air) and time. Six months is probably the maximum one should keep seed for.

Sometimes papaya seed goes dormant, i.e. the seed is viable but needs a treatment to wake it up to germinate. Gibberellic Acid can be used for this. It is available as a liquid or powder from ag stores etc. Contact me for further details. Hot water treatment can also be used. In most cases, seed treatment is not necessary.

## To use powdered GA:

Make a solution of the supplied GA in 1 litre of clean water. Soak up to 200g. of dry seed in this for 30 minutes, then drain and sow immediately. Unused soaked seed can be kept in the fridge overnight and sown the next day. Likewise, the GA solution is good for a couple of weeks if kept in a sealed container in the fridge. As soon as seedlings appear, move them into full sun. GA is not poisonous; however, take normal precautions when handling.

Seed should be sown in clean containers using a clean potting mix that does not contain earth or other non-sterile ingredients. The potting containers should be kept off the ground.

The seed may be sowed either in the open or under shelter; however, it is important to move the young seedlings into full light as soon as possible to avoid elongation of the plants. It may be necessary to fungicide the seedlings to avoid damping off diseases.

Seedlings should be transplanted into the field when their roots have filled their potting containers and their rootballs stay together when unpotted.

Remember to allow some overage for losses etc. Germination rates for papaya seed range from 75 to 95%.

*I would appreciate feedback on the performance of these seeds, particularly in the case of problems. Contact me on 0456 368245 or email [pwgs@ozemail.com.au](mailto:pwgs@ozemail.com.au).*