

How to grow Quondongs and Sandalwoods:

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This is certainly my preferred method, after hearing from people over many years and noting their successes and their failures.

Seed is always best if it is fresh, however I have had seed for years and still the seed is quite viable, however it is best to ensure that any of the old fruit has been removed from the kernel.

Collect your seed, and wait for a period when the weather is going to be extremely hot, and generally the weather forecast can give an indication if you are in for a very hot day, particularly in the mid forties.

When you know that a day like that is to occur, soak all your Quondong seed in water the previous day, good twelve or more hours at least.

Then on the day of extreme heat, remove your seed from the water and place on a piece of iron preferably black to absorb more heat, and place those wet seeds on the iron and leave them out to bake in the hot sun all day. (Not in an oven or microwave)

This applies equally as well for Sandalwood seed, but I do suggest that you keep Sandalwood seed separate to Quondong seed, as they look very similar when germinating. I did them separately, and noted that the Sandalwood seed germinated first before the Quondong seed. Not sure why.

You won't see it, but each seed will crack in the sun, and they will be primed to begin germination.

Basically you are only imitating what happens in nature I suspect.

Get a bucket and half fill with sawdust/shavings, and place your Quondong seed in the bucket. Sandalwood seed in another.

Now I was told that Camomile tea is a good fungicide, so I bought a packet of Camomile tea bags, broke the packets open, and sprinkled the Camomile in with the sawdust and seed. I have no reason to doubt what I was told, and maybe some other types of fungicide will work just as well.

Keep your buckets out of the full sun, I use the back verandah, and keep the shavings damp but not over wet. When I watered my plants each day, the buckets got a light sprinkle, just to keep moist.

Leave them for a period of four weeks.

Over the following weeks, and this can last for over twelve months and more, check your seeds to see if any have germinated. You do need to do this, as you do not want to leave them and find a tangled mass of roots in the sawdust, as you will most certainly snap those delicate roots off.

As they begin to crack and germinate, remove them from the mix and place immediately into a good potting mix, just leaving the nut showing near the surface of the pot.

It won't be long before the leaves begin to grow, and the Quondong starts to form a young seedling.

Once it reaches about ten centimetres high, start to plant them out. They will soon find a host to latch on to as they are a parasitic plant. Some place a host in each pot, I am not sure that it really is beneficial or not, but I don't do it.

Like I said, keep checking your seeds, because the process does continue for a very long time. I am still checking and it is nearly two years since I first started, and they are still germinating.

Good growing.....and I know this method works well.