



# Longleaf Pine Seed Handling Guidelines

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## General Guidelines

**Temperature** - Always keep seed refrigerated. Only remove amount you need for sowing and keep the rest in refrigeration.

**Moisture content** - Monitor the moisture content of the seed. High moisture content (over 10 %) will lead to seed degradation. Keep seed in a sealed moisture proof bag.

**Fragility** -Longleaf pine seed has a soft seedcoat. The seed can be easily damaged. Do not handle bags or containers roughly. Damaged seed degrades over time causing the germination to decrease.

## Precautions

Retest the seedlot after purchase if its' condition has changed during transport or shipping. A germination retest is cheap insurance against a failed crop.

Save a seed sample of each seedlot in case you need to verify previous test results.

## Germination

Use a germination test conducted within 6 months of sowing. Seed can degrade in storage when improperly handled.

Optimum germination temperature is 68°F. Longleaf pine seed germinates at cooler temperatures than loblolly or slash pine.

Germination is above ground (epigeal), so lightly cover the seed with loose material.

If you have questions about the seed test information provided, call the laboratory where the test was performed and get clarification.

