

PLATANUS ORIENTALIS, Linn (CHINAR) FROM SEED

—Note for tree planters

Mahmood Iqbal Sheikh*

Platanus orientalis, Linn—(Chinar) is a large deciduous tree, has a wide range of distribution growing with grace in the plains as well as hills. An excellent tree for avenues and gardens.

So far the usual practice to raise chinar stock has been to plant cuttings in dormant season. Although sprouting of cuttings does take place, the root take is hardly 5%. In view of the increasing demand for plants of chinar, an effort has been made to raise the plants from seed. The fruit which ripens in December is a globose head 2.5 to 7.5 cm in diameter, consisting of numerous one seeded achenes densely covered at the base with long fine hair. Nursery has been raised at two different localities.

Peshawar. Seed was collected from Miran (Chitral Gol) in December, 1977. It was sown on 12-1-1978 on flat 7.5 cm deep beds prepared from sand. Seed alongwith the hairy tuft was sown on the surface and covered with a thin layer of sand. Plastic cover was placed about 0.5 m above the beds. Watering was given in the form of mist spray. The beds were kept moist until the germination started on 20-1-1978. It was completed by the end of the month. Average minimum and maximum temperature at Peshawar during this period of 9 days was 1.9°C and 17.1°C respectively.

Seedlings when about 2.5 cm in height were transplanted in polythene tubes on 5-3-1978 where the survival till the end of June was 80% and average height 13 cm.

Abbottabad. Seed collected locally was sown in 1 × 1 msq beds prepared from sand, 50 : 50 sand and nursery soil, and nursery soil replicated 4 times. 500 seeds alongwith the hairs were placed on each of these beds on 12-12-1977 and covered with sand. Kana chicks (*Saccharum* reeds) were placed about 0.5 m above the beds for protection from the rain in the earlier stages and from heat subsequently. Beds were kept moist till germination started in 58 days. Data recorded on 12-6-1978 indicated 40%, 22% and 13% germination for the 3 media respectively suggesting the sand was a suitable medium for raising chinar plants from seed. Seedlings by the end of June were 6 cm in height on the average.

* Director, Forestry Research Division, Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar.