How To Grow Koa From Seeds

1. Collect seeds.
   ○ Koa seeds grow in pods. Pick brown pods. As the pods dry they split open revealing the koa seeds. This splitting means koa fruits are dehiscent.
2. Prepare seeds.
   ○ Remove koa seeds from the pods. This can be done by hand or with a machine. The pods can be brought back to the forest to decompose and return nutrients to the forest.
   ○ Make sure the seeds are visually intact (no insects or cracked seed).
3. Scarify seeds.
   ○ Koa seeds have tough seed coats (outer protective layer) so we need to scarify the seeds (break through the seed coat). One option is to rub the seeds on a piece of sandpaper. Take care! While we want to help break down the seed coat, we do not want to damage the inside of the seed.
4. Sow seeds.
   ○ Next day, sow the koa seeds in a container filled with growing media. Make sure the seed has ¼"-½" of media covering it.
   ○ Keep your containers well watered (not too dry, not too wet) and in as much sunshine as possible.
   ○ A helpful guideline for watering is the pointer finger rule. If you put your pointer finger in the media and it is wet, then don't water. If it is dry, then water.
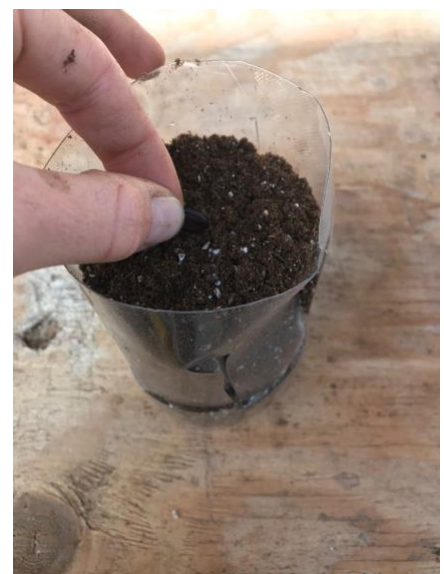
5. Germination.
    ○ Depending on conditions and the trees the seed came from, koa seeds can germinate (begin to grow) after a few days or up to 3 weeks.
6. Take care of the seedlings.
    ○ Again, keep your containers well watered (not too dry, not too wet) and in as much sunshine as possible.
7. Plant seedlings.
    ○ Identify an appropriate place for the koa seedlings where they may thrive. Use proper planting procedures to ensure plant survival and strong establishment.