

SFA

Seeds for Africa

Jubaea Chilensis

1. Soak the *Jubaea chilensis* seeds in a bucket of warm water for 24 hours to soften the tough outer hull. Drain the seeds one hour before sowing them to allow any excess water to evaporate.
2. Create a growing mixture of half sterile peat moss and half perlite. Fill 3-gallon nursery containers with the mixture. Leave a 1-inch space between the growing mixture and the top of the nursery container.
3. Sow one *Jubaea chilensis* seed in each container. Place it on the surface of the growing mixture and press it in until it is halfway buried. Cover the seed with a layer of fine to medium-grit volcanic cinder.
4. Run water into the nursery containers until it seeps out the drainage holes. Thoroughly saturate the growing mixture. Allow it to dry out completely in the top few inches before watering again. Maintain this cycle of hydration while the *Jubaea chilensis* seeds germinate.
5. Place the nursery containers inside a greenhouse or outdoors against a south-facing wall with very light shade during the hottest part of the day. Apply bottom heat to the containers using a warming mat set to between 80 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Lower the temperature to 70 degrees at night.
6. Watch for signs of germination starting four to six months after sowing, but do not be discouraged if it takes as long as one year for the seedlings to emerge. Keep the seedlings under the same growing conditions they had during germination, but remove the warming mat.
7. Apply 8-6-6 ratio fertilizer to the growing mixture once the *Jubaea chilensis* seedlings grow to 3 inches in height. Dilute the fertilizer to half-strength, but otherwise follow the instructions on the label to avoid harming the seedlings. Water the seedlings deeply after watering.
8. Grow the *Jubaea chilensis* seedlings in their nursery containers for two winters. Plant them 15 to 20 feet apart in a sunny bed with excellent

drainage. Avoid planting them where they will be exposed to salt spray since they cannot tolerate prolonged exposure without damage.

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