

# SFA

*Seeds for Africa*

## Ponytail palm

Lay two layers of paper towels onto a flat surface, such as the inside of a baking pan or on top of a large dinner plate. Sprinkle the ponytail palm seeds onto the paper towels. Spritz with water so that the paper towels are damp but not so wet as to form puddles of water. Layer a single sheet of paper towels on top of the seeds and spritz with water again.

Place in a cool, dry place shielded from wind, heat and sunlight. Example locations could include a bedroom closet or inside a closed cardboard box. Keep the paper towels moist, checking thrice daily to ensure the towels are not drying out. Wait for the seeds to sprout. This may take approximately two weeks.

Prepare a seedling tray while waiting for the ponytail palm seeds to sprout. A plastic seedling tray can be obtained from most garden supply stores or nurseries. Fill with a seedling soil mix, specially designed to be loose and aerated and formulated with added nutrients to promote strong seedling growth.

Remove the ponytail palm seedlings once they have germinated and the seed hulls have fallen off of the seedlings. Use tweezers to carefully remove the seedlings, as baby ponytail palms are fragile. Carefully insert into the seedling trays and cover with the seedling mix so that only the seedling's top leaves are visible.

Place the seedling tray in an area that receives two to three hours of direct sunlight. Too much sunlight can quickly dry out the seedling mix and kill the plants. Water gently, being careful not to wash away the seedling mix to expose the fragile plant.

Wait for the ponytail palm seeds to establish themselves in the seedling tray. Once the seedlings are 2 inches tall, carefully scoop up the seedling and its

surrounding soil and place in a pot filled with potting soil. Place the pots in direct sunlight and water twice daily. You may choose to replant the ponytail palms into the ground when they are too large for their pot or continue transplanting them to pots that are progressively larger.

© Seeds for Africa Limited

No part of this document may be reproduced, copied or distributed without the express written permission of the Directors of Seeds for Africa Limited.

[www.seedsforafrica.co.za](http://www.seedsforafrica.co.za)

*Seeds for Africa*