



Seed Treatment MATTERS

The **Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship** is the product of industry-wide collaboration between seed companies, seed treatment providers and universities.

Available online at www.seed-treatment-guide.com, it includes up-to-date guidelines for managing treated seed effectively to minimize the risk of exposure to non-target organisms, pollinators, water supplies and animals.

On the website you'll also find:

- Links to state government and regulatory offices and educational resources
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
- Acronyms and a glossary



Key Seed Treatment Stewardship Principles

Seed Treatment Applicators

Start with good quality seed without defects. Minimal dust promotes better adhesion.

Other Factors that Affect Seed Treatment Quality:

- Treating mixture
- Application rate to seed
- Process conditions
- Treatment procedures
- Application equipment

Establish Application Processes.

- Follow label and Material Data Safety Sheet directions for all components of the treating mixtures.
- Use documented training procedures.
- Use documented slurry preparation procedures.
- Use documented procedures for handling, control and proper disposal of leftover slurry components, wastes and treated seed.

Establish Quality Control Systems.

- Control points
- Monitoring processes
- Verification procedures
- Corrective measures
- Record keeping and documentation procedures

Treated Seed Labeling:

- State "Not to be used for food, feed or oil" and the identity of active ingredients on the seed tag.
- Include EPA-approved seed tag requirements.
- Use EPA-approved dye or colorant.

Farmers

Carefully read all instructions on the Seed Tag and Label.

Store Treated Seed Appropriately.

- Maintain a well-lit and ventilated facility. Check local and/or state regulations for storage requirements.
- Keep seeds dry and away from children, animals, food and feed.
- Use high-quality seed, free from excessive dust, with appropriate coating systems that minimize abrasion of agrichemical coating.
- Properly dispose of containers and/or seed packages that contained treated seed.

Prepare Equipment Before Planting.

- Calibrate planting equipment to recommended seeding rates and depths.
- Fill planter away from areas where bees may be present, noting wind speed and direction.

Protect Workers and the Environment.

- Avoid releasing dust when opening seed containers and while filling, emptying and cleaning equipment.
- Avoid exposure of dust to nearby bee hives or to nearby crops or weeds in the flowering stage.

Minimize Dust When Planting.

- Follow planter manufacturers' recommendations for use of seed lubricant (talc or graphite) to minimize abrasion.
- Where possible, direct planter exhaust down toward the soil surface.

Follow Seed Label Planting Instructions.

- Follow recommended seeding rates.
- Plant seed one inch or deeper according to seed label instructions.
- Cover and collect spilled seed as soon as possible to avoid exposure to wildlife.

Dispose of Excess Seed Properly.

- Small amounts of leftover treated seed may be double sown within a portion of the field at an agronomically acceptable seeding rate.
- Store in original containers if needed for future use.
- Depending on facility policy, take to:
 - Power plant or cement kiln for use as a fuel source; or
 - Incinerator, waste management facility or landfill.
- Keep out of food and feed channels.
- Only take to a specifically authorized ethanol production facility where by-products are not used for livestock feed.

Clean and Maintain Equipment.

- Minimize rinse water – do not discharge to ground water, surface water or septic tanks.
- Be aware of potential cross-contamination when using equipment to plant treated seed and harvested grain, non-treated seed or seed with different active ingredients.

