

SEED TREATMENTS: HOW TO PROTECT POLLINATORS AT PLANTING

Neonicotinoids are an important farming tool. Best practices must be used with seed treatments containing neonicotinoids, both to help protect pollinators from potential harm and to ensure growers can continue to use this technology.

Communicate with local beekeepers

- Determine location(s) of hives near your fields
- Discuss the timing of field and pollinator activities to minimize potential harm
- Consider a written agreement outlining timing
- Provide pollinator-friendly habitats away from treated fields
- Establish no-spray buffers as needed between treated fields and pollinator habitats



Follow directions

- Read and follow all product label instructions
- Dispose of any unused seed according to regulations
- Be aware of any bee hazard statements on the label

Reduce dust off

- Control flowering weeds before planting
- Avoid creating airborne dust and drift from seed bags, planters, and compressed air when filling or cleaning
- Direct planter exhaust down toward soil*
- Be aware of wind speed/direction
- Store excess treated seed in an enclosure
- Replace talc/graphite with a fluency agent*
- Fill the planter 10 yards in from field perimeter to avoid flowering plants
- Plant at labeled seeding rate and depth
- Be aware of bloom status of nearby plants and consider planting after 4:00PM if pollinators are foraging nearby
- Don't clean equipment in sensitive environments

*Contact your equipment manufacturer for planter-specific options

Source: American Seed Trade Association, Bayer, Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship, CropLife America, CropLife Canada, CropScience, Health Canada, Honey Bee Health Coalition, Syngenta US.

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