

Treated Seed Best Management Practices in Canada

Seed treatment products help protect seed from germination to emergence and promote early-season vigor by aiming to deliver broad-spectrum protection against key seed- and soil-borne diseases and other pests.

Treated seeds must be used properly to protect wildlife, pollinators, human health and the environment. **Always read and adhere to the pesticide label and seed tag directions.**

Pollinator Protection:

Communication between growers and beekeepers prior to the commencement of and during field activities can help to protect honeybees located near fields. Consider using an application or other tool to help facilitate communication.

- Beekeepers should inform growers of hive locations.
- Growers should inform beekeepers of timing of planting treated seed and pesticide applications.
- Beekeepers should ensure hives are located strategically, take actions to temporarily protect or relocate hives when feasible, and ensure clean water sources are provided.
- Do not load or clean planting equipment near bee colonies and avoid places where bees may be foraging such as flowering crops, trees or weeds.
- Growers should recognize pollinator habitat and take care to reduce potential treated seed dust exposure.

Handling and Transportation:

- Handle seed with care during transport, loading and unloading to help reduce abrasion, dust generation and spillage.
- Store treated seed under appropriate conditions (refer to product label and seed tag).
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (refer to product label and seed tag).
- Do not reuse empty seed bags for any purpose other than storing the original treated seed.



Planting/Seeding:

- If using a planter with an exhaust, take care to reduce/control dust exhausted from planter.
 - Use high quality, dust-free seed for planting.
 - Direct exhaust to the ground and consider using deflector equipment to help reduce potential dust drift.
 - Use the appropriate seed flow lubricant.
- Only a dust-reducing fluency agent is permitted with corn or soybean seed treated with neonicotinoid insecticides.
 - Follow the label use directions for the dust reducing fluency agent.
- Follow recommended crop seeding rate and planting depth.
- Keep treated seed and dust away from sensitive areas such as aquatic habitat.
- Take steps to cover (incorporated into the soil, away from water sources) or remove excess seed that has fallen or spilled out of the planter or seeder to avoid potential risks to birds and wildlife.

Clean Up:

- Properly dispose of empty seed bags in accordance with local regulations and participate in Cleanfarms ([cleanfarms.ca](https://www.cleanfarms.ca)) collection programs where available.
- Clean and maintain planting or seeding equipment regularly (e.g., vacuum any dust remaining in the fan housing, auger and hopper) and follow directions provided by equipment manufacturer.



For more information on treated seed best practices visit [Protecting pollinators when using treated seed - best management practices - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-management/protecting-pollinators-when-using-treated-seed-best-management-practices.html)


We create chemistry

Always read and follow label and seed tag directions.

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