



# The Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship

## Ensuring Success through Stewardship of Treated Seed

Seed treatments provide farmers with an economical means of protecting seeds and seedlings against early-season insect pests and diseases. This results in stronger and more uniform stands, healthier plants and higher crop yields.

It is essential that those who treat, handle, transport, and plant treated seeds manage them properly and in accordance with label instructions to minimize the risk of pesticide exposure to non-target organisms. Some of the critical recommendations that need to be considered can be found in this handout.

## What are the benefits of neonicotinoid seed treatments?

Neonicotinoids are highly valued by growers who use them in integrated pest management (IPM) programs. They provide a unique mode of action, necessary to managing pests resistant to other insecticides. Neonicotinoids selectively control insect pests, while helping ensure beneficial insects remain available to help keep other potential insect pests in check.

A comprehensive economic analysis of more than 1,500 field studies conducted over 20 years by AgInforomatics finds neonicotinoid insecticides provided average yield increases ranging from 3.6 percent to 71.3 percent in eight major crops across North America. This research found the average yield benefit of using neonicotinoids far exceeds the cost of treatment and delivers a substantial economic return on investment to the farmer.

## Many groups are working to improve bee health.

The crop protection and seed industries are working in a number of areas to protect and improve the health of honey bees. They are partnering with other organizations in the Honeybee Health Coalition which is working to improve pollinator habitat and forage, creating and disseminating hive management tools and developing strategies to control crop pests while safeguarding pollinator health.

Farmers and beekeepers depend on each other where bees are needed to help pollinate crops. The farmer gets greater crop productivity and the beekeeper earns a fee for pollination.



## What is the industry doing to make seed treatments safer for pollinators and other wildlife?

Seed treatments, such as those with neonicotinoid pesticides, undergo rigorous testing and review by the EPA prior to being permitted to be used commercially. In addition, industry is constantly evolving to improve seed treatment processes such as:

- Enhancing seed coating polymers and application processes to keep active ingredients on the seed and reduce dust-off
- Creating new flow agents for use with planting equipment to help further minimize the amount of dust-off during planting.
- Implementing an ISO planting equipment standard to better control dust emissions.

# Steps for Stewardship of Treated Seed



## Follow Directions

Follow directions on treated seed container labeling for handling, storage, planting and disposal practices.

Ensure all seed is covered by soil to protect wildlife and the environment.



## Eliminate Weeds

Eliminate flowering plants and weeds in and around the field prior to planting.



## Minimize Dust

Use advanced seed flow lubricants that minimize dust.



## BeeAware

At planting, be aware of honey bees and hives located near the field, and communicate with beekeepers when possible.



## Clean and Remove

Completely remove all treated seed left in containers and equipment used to handle harvested grain, and dispose of it properly. Keep all treated seed out of the commodity grain channels.

For detailed information about stewardship of treated seed, check out [seed-treatment-guide.com](http://seed-treatment-guide.com)

