

REGULATION OF TREATED SEED & THE BENEFITS OF SEED TREATMENTS

THERE IS A MYTH THAT IS FREQUENTLY CIRCULATED THAT TREATED SEED IS NOT REGULATED IN THE U.S.

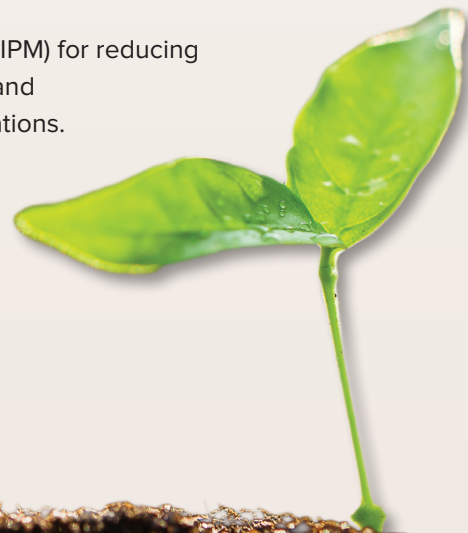
Seed treatment pesticides are important tools that provide farmers with an economical means of protecting seeds and seedlings against early-season insects, diseases, and other pests. Today's seed treatments enable America's farmers to realize greater yields, healthier crops, and higher revenues than ever. At the same time, seed treatment technology reduces potential risks to the environment, thanks to its highly targeted approach. Pesticides applied as seed treatments undergo rigorous testing and must be specifically approved for this use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The resulting studies are reviewed by federal and state regulators to ensure the products' safety to applicators, wildlife, the general population, and the environment.

To help protect pollinators, groundwater and growers, pesticide seed treatment formulations and application processes are designed to keep the pesticide coating tightly adhered to the seeds until they are planted and ready to germinate. Flowability agents added to the planter box help reduce abrasion of the seed coating and minimize seed dust-off during planting that could affect pollinators. The American Seed Trade Association leads a stewardship campaign to educate seed treaters and farmers on pollinator protection practices (<https://seed-treatment-guide.com/>).

Seed treatments deliver a precise amount of pesticide that protects seeds from insects and diseases before and during germination, and through early developmental stages;

- They control key pests, especially those that are below ground, that could destroy the seed or damage the developing seedling.
- They protect and, in some cases, increase crop yield, thereby providing growers an economic return on investment.
- They are critical components of integrated pest management (IPM) for reducing non-target exposure to pesticides and environmental impact, and potentially decreasing the need for supplemental foliar applications.

For some of these pests and diseases, there are no recovery options after the damage to the seedling becomes apparent. Without the protection that seed treatments offer from such pests, the plants may die or lose yield.



HERE ARE THE FACTS ABOUT THE REGULATION OF TREATED SEEDS:

1. Seed treatment products are highly regulated, as are sprayed and soil-applied pesticides. They undergo thorough evaluation by the US EPA, and applicable state agencies, prior to commercialization and periodically thereafter. Only after a seed treatment product is approved by the relevant federal and state agencies, can the product be used in accordance with its EPA-approved label.
2. Application of seed treatment products to seed must be performed strictly according to instructions on the pesticide label, approved by EPA.
3. Labels for commercial seed treatment products carry language that must be placed on the tags of treated seed packages regarding permitted and prohibited practices.
4. EPA assesses any potential risks for use of seed treatment products from applying the product and planting the seed (i.e., environmental fate, ecotoxicology, and operator exposures) to the consumption of the harvested commodity by the consumer. EPA's associated science-based evaluation also considers the application rates, analysis of the quantity "planted per day", typical seeding/planting rates per acre, etc.
5. All pesticides are subject to periodic review to ensure that, as the science advances and/or policies and pesticide use practices change over time, all registered products continue to meet the statutory standard of "no unreasonable adverse effects" on health, safety or the environment.
6. Under EPA regulations, 40 CFR §152.25(a), the seeds treated with pesticides are considered "treated articles" if, and only if:
 - a. the article contains or is treated with a pesticide; and
 - b. the pesticide is intended to protect the article itself; and
 - c. the pesticide itself is registered for this use by EPA

Without this 'Treated Article Exemption' designation by EPA for seed, there would be costly duplication of regulatory effort without any additional benefit to health, safety, or the environment, given EPA's thorough review of the product's use as a seed treatment.

7. The Federal Seed Act regulates the labeling, sale, and movement of seed in the U.S., and seed companies must abide by its provisions. The tag on a package of treated seed must include identification of what the seed has been treated with, guidance for safe handling, and other applicable labeling requirements.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

ASTA and other stakeholder groups have developed a set of recommendations to assist those involved in the process of treating, handling, transporting, or planting treated seeds. For more information, visit: seed-treatment-guide.com/

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