

## Good stewardship for a healthier world

Proper management of treated seed plays an important role in sustaining our environment and maximising the health of crops, our communities and your bottom line. That's why we strongly recommend responsible stewardship principles that result in minimal impact of neonicotinoid seed treatments on people, animals and our environment. Working side-by-side with growers and other stakeholders, we are committed to making sure our seed treatment solutions result in success for everyone involved.

## Bee health is beneficial

As our world population grows, so does the pressure to produce more food. Honey bees provide a vital benefit to agriculture through pollination of many food crops – a task only bees and a select few other insects can carry out.

That's why we all must support and collaborate with the agriculture, scientific and bee health communities to better understand the role of various pressures – including weather, disease and insecticides – on bee populations.



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# Stewardship Guide

## Handling and Planting Treated Seed

Minimising Impact  
on the Environment and  
Beneficial Insects



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## Recommendations for Good Treated Seed Management

As a grower, you play an important role in helping protect the health of our honey bee population. This guide provides recommendations for responsible stewardship practices and proper seed management that can help you maximise the benefits to your operation by supporting bee health and ensure a healthy environment and abundant food supply for future generations.

### Live by the label

For seed handling best practices, follow seed container label directions. In addition, these guidelines will help protect you and the environment:

- Do not use treated seed for human or animal consumption.
- Keep out of reach of children, livestock and wildlife.
- Store treated seed under appropriate conditions.
- Wear protective clothing, gloves and a dust mask when handling treated seed and cleaning equipment.
- Do not reuse empty seed bags for purposes other than storing the original treated seed.
- Observe withholding periods and grazing restrictions.

### Pre Sowing/Planting

When preparing for sowing/planting, review this checklist:

- Eliminate or reduce flowering weeds in paddocks to be planted.
- When opening seed containers; and when filling or emptying the planting equipment, avoid exposure to dust.
- Avoid adding excess dust from the bottom of the seed container to the drill/planter.
- Follow drill/planter manufacturer recommendations (if any) for use of talc or graphite (avoid using more than recommended).

### Sowing/Planting

When it's time for sowing/planting, consider these guidelines:

- Minimise off-site movement of dust from treated seeds during sowing/planting.
- If using vacuum or pneumatic planters direct seed dust to/into soil.
- Be aware of wind speed and direction, particularly in areas with flowering crops which could attract pollinators.
- To protect birds and animals, treated seed must be incorporated into the soil at proper planting depth, in particular at row ends and in corners.
- Ensure any spilled seed is collected up or buried immediately.

### Storage, Disposal and Cleaning

After sowing/planting is completed, review this checklist:

- Ensure that any leftover treated seed is returned to the original containers and properly stored for future use.
- Do not reuse empty seed containers for purposes other than storing original treated seed.
- Clean drills/planters and seedboxes away from sensitive environmental areas, especially those that are attractive to pollinators.
- Use a broom or workshop vacuum to minimise dust release.
- Do not use compressed air.

### Storage and Transport

Protect your treated seed by reviewing the following guidelines:

- Avoid mechanical damage to treated seed.
- Store under appropriate conditions. The storage area must:
  - Have sufficient lighting and ventilation.
  - Be dry and secure.
- Transport in a way that no seeds are spilled on the road or ground.

