

Drill Operators Guidelines and Checklist

By following a few guidelines, you can help seed treatments work their best for you while protecting the wider environment. A summary of the key checks you need to make before you put any seed in you drill.

- **Check your drill before you fill.** Check for loose connections and grease all bearings where specified.
- **Maintain your drill(s) correctly;** check and prepare them before drilling.
- **Calibrate your drill** in a place where any seed can be easily measured and not allowed to escape into the wider environment.
- **Carry a notebook** in which you can record relevant details such as the dates and times when drilling took place; the quantities of seed used, any difficulties with drilling.
- **Retain the seed labels using a bulldog clip** and record which seed was drilled in which fields.
- **Carry some canes** so you can mark any parts of the field where you experience any difficulties and then write down the details in the notebook.
- **WEAR SUITABLE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (COVERALLS) AND SUITABLE PROTECTIVE GLOVES** when handling treated seed.
- **Always ensure suitable seed drilling equipment** is used to maximise good incorporation into the soil and minimise spillages and dust emission.
- **Avoid drilling into cloddy seedbeds** as these make treated seed more readily available to wildlife so after drilling it may be advisable to harrow, roll or possibly both to reduce this.
- **If necessary, modify your drill.** Most manufacturers will provide advice to allow your machine to perform to its best.
- **Avoid the release of treated seed dust.**
- **When drilling is complete clean out the drill** and dispose of remaining seed and dust in an appropriate manner in an area from which pesticides can be retained and

then disposed of safely.

• **Excess seed and machinery washings** should be put in a suitable container and disposed of safely.

• **Cultivate to create a quality seed bed** over the whole field.

• **Clean up any spillages immediately** - better still avoid them completely.

• **Check the drilled area for exposed seed** after drilling and bury any on the surface.

• **Fill the drill on an area where it's easy to detect and clear up any spillages** - avoid headlands and areas that are grassed.

• **Dispose of any dust remaining in the bag with the bag itself** - don't tip it into the drill. *Remember, if you have an older vacuum pressure precision maize drill, you can usually obtain a retrofit kit from the manufacturer. This will avoid venting dust upwards into the air.

• **With cereal drills, sow the headlands last**; this will help incorporate any seed left by the drill when lifting in or out at row ends.

• **Pay special attention to areas where the seedbed is poorer** and in corners of fields.

• **If necessary, carry out further harrowing or rolling** and increase tension on coulters to ensure good seed coverage.

• **DO NOT apply treated seed from the air.**

• **DO NOT mix treated seed with seed for other crops**



Further details on recovery of spilled seed and safe disposal are provided below.

Spillage Guide

- Carry suitable seed spillage equipment with you. See below:
- In case of spillages we recommend that the following items should be carried with the seed at all times:



A small shove to gather up any spillages.



A plastic jug to help you handle any spilt seed.



A suitable bag or sack as seed may have to be gathered with stones and soil.

Make sure you write down the details and put them with the material so it can disposed of safely. (See notebook above).

The Agrichem website has a recording sheet to allow users to keep an accurate record of which seed was drilled and where. See Drill Operators Recording Sheet.