

Agrichem[®] (International) Limited

Industrial Estate, Station Road
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SEED TREATMENT STEWARDSHIP

What is stewardship

As seed treatment manufacturers we need to lead the way in promoting the responsible use of seed treatments. This is not new but with ever increasing demands on good practice in the agricultural industry with regard to agrochemicals, fertilisers, land use, sustainability, wildlife habitats and health and safety, we all need to be carefully considering the environment in our quest for maximising field output.

Why we need to implement stewardship.

High profile cases of damage to the environment through seed treatments have meant that all sectors of the seed industry have to implement regimes of good practice and ensure that the safest standards of seed use are met. If we do not, the consequences will mean tighter regulations on seed treatment registrations, which could mean less products being available in the future. It is this pressure that means everyone in the industry is affected. Manufacturers, merchants, seed processors and farmers are being relied upon to demonstrate good practice in everything they do.

What steps can we take?

Being aware of the risks is the first step to take. Prevention is always better than cure and planning to ensure no pesticide reaches anything but its intended target is the number one priority. If the seed arrives on farm well packaged is unloaded and stored carefully we can then look to perform the drilling task safely.

The two main constituents to monitor, are the drilling of the treated seed and the dust emitted from the seed. It is all important to prevent any wildlife having the ability to eat any of the seed. This means it is vital to put it all in the ground.

Ensure that the drill operator is trained in the use of the drilling equipment and that it is maintained and calibrated correctly to avoid spillages.

If possible, supply additional feeding sources for birds and mammals ie. leaving uncropped areas such as field margins and buffer zones. Avoid sowing treated seed when birds and mammals are breeding, in particular during February and March. Sow when optimum germination conditions allow to reduce the period of time that the seed is available to birds and mammals.



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Drilling stewardship guidelines

1. Ensure that the operator is correctly trained to use the drilling machinery.
2. Ensure adequate seed drilling equipment is used, maintained and calibrated correctly.
3. Check the seed drill for leaks
4. Load seed drills with care and check for spillages
5. Clean up any spillages immediately.
6. Ensure you have an acceptable tilth for the crop you are drilling
7. Ensure the drill is placing the seed at the correct depth
8. Do not broadcast seed
9. After drilling check headlands for uncovered seed and bury if found.
10. Prevent dust from seed bag entering the drill
11. Deflect/vent any dust from the drill onto the soil and cover.
12. After drilling remove seed and dust from drill collecting into labels bags for safe disposal.
13. Wash hand immediately after use and before eating or drinking.
14. Make a record of operations noting any problems.



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