

Handling treated seed

Things to remember when handling treated seed



ISSUE

Grains or oilseeds contaminated with treated seed or other foreign material put domestic and export grain markets at risk. Using equipment that has handled treated seed can be a leading source of contamination.



BACKGROUND

Ontario grain elevators maintain a zero tolerance for treated seed contamination. It is important to ensure that when grain is delivered, it is free of treated seed. Even a trace number of treated seed or other foreign material can lead to rejected shipments.

It's important to remember that if treated seed is found in grain, the producer is responsible for all costs associated with business disruption, including cleanout and losses.

IDENTIFICATION

Treated seed, fertilizer, glass, animal feed, and other foreign materials are all things that can contaminate grain, causing the load to be rejected.



FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

POTENTIAL POINTS OF CONTAMINATION

- Seed left in corners of wagons or trucks, tarps, or auger dust residue.
- Seed that was aerial broadcasted in a standing crop that is then harvested.
- Seed spills in fields that are picked up by a combine during harvest .
- Fertilizer contaminated with treated seed.





REDUCING THE RISK OF CONTAMINATED SEED

- If possible, use separate equipment for handling treated seed and do not use it for delivery or storage of untreated seed, including augers.
- Label equipment used for treated seed.
- Keep records to identify which equipment has been used to handle treated seed.
- Communicate with employees and others on the farm about what equipment is used for what purposes.

SHOULD EQUIPMENT BE USED FOR HANDLING BOTH TREATED AND UNTREATED SEED, REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:

- Flush augers as soon as treated seed handling is complete, with a minimum of 50 kg of manufacturer recommended flush material.
- Thoroughly sweep and/or vacuum all surfaces and accessible crevices.
- Disassemble all areas that seed could get jammed (racks, tarps, etc.).
- Always wear appropriate PPE, such as a dust mask, to reduce exposure. Consult the seed tag or seed treatment product label for PPE requirements.
- Use compressed air to blow out any particles.
- Pressure wash all surfaces and inspect surfaces after washing.
- Clean equipment away from pollinator habitats and water sources.

Information sources:

- OABA - <https://grainscanada.gc.ca/en/protection/delivery/keep-treated-seed-out.html>
- Canadian Grain Commission - <https://grainscanada.gc.ca/en/protection/delivery/keep-treated-seed-out.html>
- Canadian Seed Growers of Canada - https://seedgrowers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CSTA_SeedTreatmentStewardshipBooklets_Aug2019_v5E.pdf

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WHAT TO DO TODAY

- The best method for keeping treated seed out of commercial grain is keeping trucks and equipment that have handled treated seed separate. Talk to your grain buyers immediately to make alternative arrangements if contamination occurs.