



Fungicide Seed Treatment

WHY USE SEED TREATMENTS?

Once the seed is planted, it is important that germination occurs uniformly and quickly. If the soil is too cold, germination can be delayed. This can result in seed damage and uneven emergence and, in certain cases, re-seeding may be necessary. Seed treatments are effective against problems that occur in cold wet soils and in areas of low moisture. Seed treatments are also effective against a broad spectrum of problems including seed decay, seedling diseases and soil pathogens.

Fungicides are used to control diseases of seeds and seedlings. Fungicidal seed treatments are used for three reasons:

- (1) to control soil-borne fungal disease organisms (pathogens) that cause **seed rots, damping-off, seedling blights** and **root rot**;
- (2) to control fungal pathogens that are surface-borne on the seed.
- (3) to control internally seed-borne fungal pathogens. (Figure 1).

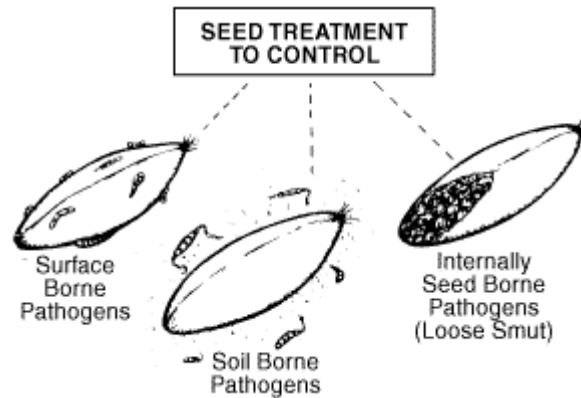


Figure 1. Reasons for seed treatment.

At ABCeeds, only a small portion of our seed is treated with a fungicide. Some examples of seeds that may be treated.

Corn

Corn seed is especially susceptible to attack by soil-borne pathogens when sown in cold (below 50 degrees Fahrenheit) wet soil, when the seed is in poor condition, when it is mechanically injured, or if it has been stored for two years or more. Seed treatment will protect against seed rot and reduce the danger of seedling blight. Sweet corn is very susceptible.

Peas

Common seedling blights of peas can be controlled with thiram.

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Cautions

Follow label directions when handling treated seed. Wear gloves and keep out of reach of children.

Treated seed should not be used for food or feed.

Do Not Eat Treated Seed !!

Another Helpful hint for all gardeners.

What is the dreaded damping-off disease? How do I prevent and/or treat it?

Damping off is a fungal disease which attacks the seedlings at the soil line, withering the stem and causing the seedling to fall over and die.

Starting seeds for transplanting.

The best prevention is cleanliness! Use a sterile growing medium, preferably one containing milled sphagnum moss, as it naturally inhibits damping-off. Soilless mixes such as milled sphagnum / vermiculite are best. Planting containers should be new or thoroughly cleaned if reused, wash with hot soapy water and rinse with a solution of 1 part chlorine bleach to 10 parts water.

Avoid overcrowding of seedlings and overwatering, a small fan in the seed-starting area to circulate the air is useful. Any stress which weakens seedlings, poor light, high temperatures, or improper watering makes them more susceptible.

If only a few seedlings are affected, you may be able to remove them, taking care to remove the soil around them.

If Starting seeds directly in the garden.

Make sure that soil temperature is warm enough for seeds to germinate quickly (consult the [planting guide](#) for optimal soil temps). Avoid overcrowding of seedlings and overwatering. Overwatering causes the soil to cool down and slows the growth of the new seedlings.