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Disposal of Treated Seed Guidelines

The use of seed treatment products is an integral part of agricultural production and are widely used within Canada. However, it is important that any treated seed that no longer fits its intended purpose is responsibly disposed of in accordance with best management practices and relevant federal, provincial and municipal laws and regulations.

There are a number options for the responsible disposal of treated seed that an operation can employ. The following options may not fit every seed treatment operation and are designed to be used as “*potential*” disposal options. These options may be impacted by the pesticide active ingredient(s) on the seed, application rate, volume of treated seed destined for disposal, as well as any applicable laws and regulations.

1. Plant treated seed

Plant treated seed at an agronomically acceptable rate to ensure the maximum label rate per acre of pesticide(s) is not exceeded and plant at an appropriate depth for the seed to achieve germination. If treated seed is broadcast on the soil surface incorporate immediately.

2. Disposal at an approved landfill

Treated seed in some instances may be permitted for disposal in a landfill. However, prior to disposal the seed handler should contact the landfill to ensure treated seed meets landfill criteria and all applicable laws and regulations.

3. Use as a fuel source

Treated seed in some instances may be used as an alternative fuel source. Operations such as cement kilns and power plants utilize various non-fossil fuel sources. However, prior to disposal the seed handler will need to contact the facility to ensure the facility has applicable permits and the willingness to receive treated seed for disposal.

4. Disposal via a waste management facility

Treated seed may be disposed of via high temperature incineration. Waste management companies in many instances are able to accept treated seed for transport and ultimate destruction via high temperature incineration, but the seed handler will need to contact a waste management facility to ensure the company has the applicable permits and willingness to receive treated seed for disposal.

In addition to the various disposal options previously identified there are several treated seed disposal practices that are **not** recommended including:

1. Composting treated seed
2. Spreading on to fallow or non-cropped field without incorporating seed
3. Disposal at a landfill that does not have applicable permits
4. Disposal via a waste management facility that does not have applicable permits
5. Burning on farm.

Disposal of seed treatment containers

Treated seed may be held in various containers including paper or plastic seed bags, totes or molded seed boxes. These various containers may still contain seed dust, debris or small amounts of treated seed and should be disposed of responsibly and in compliance with any applicable laws and regulations.

1. Disposal in an approved industry stewardship program

Depending on the relative geography within Canada there are program that exists where paper and plastic seed bags (i.e. 25 kg) and polypropylene sacks (i.e. 500 to 1000 kg) may be returned for safe disposal as part of an industry initiative (visit www.cleanfarms.ca).

2. Return containers to product manufacturer

Molded seed boxes in many cases may be returned to the product manufacturer or seed distributor for safe disposal or re-use.

3. Dispose of in an approved landfill

Seed treatment bags and tote sacks in some instances may be permitted for disposal in a landfill. However, prior to disposal the seed handler should contact the landfill to ensure seed treatment bags and tote sacks meet landfill criteria and all applicable laws and regulations.

4. Disposal via a waste management facility

Seed treatment containers may be disposed of via high temperature incineration. Waste management companies in many instances are able to accept a wide range of treated seed container for transport and ultimate destruction via high temperature incineration.

In addition to the various disposal options previously identified there are several treated seed container disposal practices that are **not** recommended including:

- Never re-use seed containers that have contained treated seed. In some instances molded containers may be reused by the seed distributor following a thorough cleaning and disinfection process.

Treated Seed in Grain Shipments

Treated seed can become a significant risk to human and animal health and negatively impact grain trade if any treated seed is found in grain shipment to elevators. The following are best practices to prevent treated seed in grain deliveries:

1. Clean up spills and safely dispose of immediately
2. Clean all equipment, bins and vehicles thoroughly after seeding and before harvest
3. Visually inspect all equipment, bins and bulk containers for the presence of treated seed

Disclaimer:

These guidelines were developed in support of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards. As part of the Protocols all operations are required to have a treated seed disposal policy for the safe and responsible management of treated seed that is no longer usable. It is at the discretion of each operation to identify a disposal mechanism(s) that meet their individual circumstances, as well as all applicable regulatory requirements.

For more information please contact Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association at 877-236-2972 or www.awsa.ca