



Take another look at seed treatments

Finally! After a succession of truly awful autumns, 2020 delivered almost perfect harvest weather. For the most part, crops came off in great condition and yields were high.

But having great looking seed in the bin is no reason to overlook the importance of treating that seed in the spring if you intend to plant any of it.

"The simple truth is that soil-borne disease is always present," says Nathan Klassen, a SeedGrowth® Specialist with Bayer. "The pathogens that make up the seedling disease complex cause seed and root rots, damping off and seedling blight and they affect all crops. And even if you have a nice warm dry spring, that doesn't mean there's no risk of soil-borne disease – rhizoctonia that affects pulse crops actually prefers warm dry conditions."

He says seed treatments are really the only option for protection against seed- and soil-borne disease. "Once that seed's in the ground, you can't do anything else to protect it."

Cereal, pulse and potato seed can all be treated on the farm or be taken to a custom treater. Klassen says that if you're doing your own treating, good seed coverage is crucial for optimal performance in the field. "Make sure the seed has warmed up a bit so the product can adhere better, check the product label to ensure you're using the right rate of seed treatment and add water to get more uniform coverage, if required, prior to secondary mixing to ensure a quality treating job."

Klassen understands that seed treatments can be a difficult proposition for some. "I get that it's hard to know if it was the seed treatment that helped get the crop up out of the ground, especially when spring conditions are seemingly ideal," he says.

"But the thing is, you don't always know what spring will bring, and seed treatments can help an emerging crop cope with early-season stressors like a late snowfall or cool soils. You can't plan for those things, but with a seed treatment, you can be more prepared. It's like a bit of extra insurance to make sure your crop emerges strong and healthy."

Bayer has a wide selection of seed treatments for farmers to choose from. "If anyone has any questions about what will work best on their farm or how to treat seed properly, the SeedGrowth team is always here to help," says Klassen.



BUTEO™ start is a new insecticidal seed treatment for canola that delivers powerful protection against striped and crucifer flea beetles. Rapid uptake and translocation ensures seedlings are protected from the moment they emerge, even in dry conditions.

Raxil® PRO contains three different fungicides that offer contact and systemic protection against cereal diseases, including seed- and soil-borne *Fusarium graminearum* and all four types of smut in barley and oats.

Trilex® EverGol® is a fully customizable pulse seed treatment with three active ingredients to protect young crops against key pulse diseases, like botrytis and root rot caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Fusarium* spp. and *Pythium* spp.

EverGol® Energy offers systemic and contact protection against the most significant seed- and soil-borne diseases in soybeans and pulses, including early season root rot and seedling blight caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Fusarium* spp., and *Pythium* spp.



Run your own split-planting trials

Digital platforms, like Climate FieldView™, have made it easier to conduct your own on-farm trials and collect more relevant, accurate data to use in future seed and planting decisions. Here are five tips to get the most out of your own split-planting trials.

Dare to compare

Think about comparing more than just variety A vs. variety B. You can use split-planting trials to compare everything from seed treatments, seeding rates, product application timings and more.

Be diligent with data entry

“Quality in, quality out” as the saying goes. FieldView is constantly improving so that you can input and organize data accurately and easily. With pull-down menus, better ways to add and track production notes and more, FieldView is a powerful tool to collect and collate field data that is useful for future decision-making.

Split-plant large areas

Bigger is better when it comes to on-farm trials. The more area you cover,



the more field variability is factored into final results. Don't have enough seed to turn a whole field into a split-planting trial? FieldView has tools that let you monitor a trial area located within a larger field using the field region report tool.

Focus on fields with variability

Further to the point above, choose fields that are different from one another to run trials. Find out how things like rolling land, soil type, drainage and more affect seed varieties, product performance and so on. FieldView helps you to track

how various seed and crop protection products perform under different field conditions.

Analyze your data thoroughly

Yield monitors give you just one piece of the overall picture. FieldView's field region reporting tools can help you get the full picture by assessing crop performance across all field areas, from headlands to forest edges and more. Learning how a product or production practice performs across all conditions can help you make more accurate decisions in the future.

PHOTO: BAYER

BayerValue East Rewards: Your crop comes first



*This year, Eastern Canadian growers can choose from two different **BayerValue™ Reward Programs**.*

1

The BayerValue East Rewards Program

is designed for corn and soybean growers who want to maximize their rewards this season. Save up to \$26/bag on corn seed, or \$10/bag on soybean seed through your qualified crop protection purchases.

You'll also be eligible for a complimentary one-year subscription to the **Climate FieldView™** platform and up to 50% off the cost of Climate FieldView hardware*.

2

The BayerValue Hot Potatoes® Rewards Program

is designed for horticultural producers and can help you save up to 14% on the horticulture products you need to make your season a success.

You can find details about both programs at GrowerPrograms.ca



*Offer applies to a maximum rebate of \$2,000 for select hardware purchased on the Climate FieldView order portal only. For full details, visit ClimateFieldView.ca/BayerValue.



Creating conditions for success

When it comes to successful seed germination and strong stand establishment, much comes down to effectively managing the things within your control so that the things beyond your control, like erratic spring weather, don't have as great an impact. So what are those things?

Seed treatments. There are always background levels of soil-borne disease present, no matter where you farm. *Pythium* spp., *Fusarium* spp. and *Rhizoctonia* spp. form the seedling disease complex and can negatively impact seed germination as well as root, shoot and seedling health. Seed treatments protect seeds, roots and shoots from disease for roughly two to three weeks, allowing the crop to establish properly.

Seedbed preparation. Good seed-to-soil contact is critical to germination, and that comes down to good seedbed prep. Ensure trash is evenly distributed, and even thinned if necessary, as too much or clumpy residue can interfere with accurate seed placement. Make sure the seedbed is uniform, level and warm. Gentle, on-row packing can also help preserve moisture for better germination.

Fertility. Soil test to make sure the field has what your crop needs. Harvest 2020 went pretty well for the most part, so growers had a chance to get fall fertilizer applications down, but it doesn't hurt to check where some of the main nutrient levels stand prior to seeding. Rapid snow melt or heavy spring rain, for example, can cause nutrient leaching and you may need to supplement.

TOOLS FOR POTATO GROWERS

Soil and root health are particularly important for potato production and Bayer can help.

Start with **Emesto® Silver**, a potato seed-piece treatment that protects seed and roots from seed-borne fusarium, tuber rot and seed-borne rhizoctonia.

Velum® Prime suppresses three nematodes (root lesion, root knot and potato cyst) and plays a role in early blight and black dot protection.

Form a protection zone around the potato seed and roots with **Serenade® SOIL**. Serenade SOIL is a biological fungicide with no MRL or residue concerns, and can be used to suppress fusarium root rot, soil-borne rhizoctonia and pythium root rot.

Know your seed moisture!

It can have an effect on harvest timing, storage safety, sale price and more — so much can turn on seed moisture content!

With a GAC (grain analysis computer) you can get accurate seed moisture and test weight information fast and with no fuss. So how do you get your GAC?

Just purchase **DEKALB®** seed along with select Bayer seed treatment products to get your **mini GAC® plus** grain moisture tester.

Go to GetYourGac.ca for full program details, or talk to your local retailer.





BayerValue West Rewards: built around agronomics



The 2021 **BayerValue™ West Rewards Program** is designed to meet your agronomic needs throughout the growing season, while giving you maximum savings.

You can save up to 19% on your purchases of Bayer seed treatments, herbicides and fungicides. See for yourself by going to **GrowerPrograms.ca** and launching the easy-to-use online BayerValue calculator to get an estimate of your savings, and discover even more ways to save.

One way to make the most of your savings is to book your cereal herbicides early. With **The Incredible Bayer Offer™**, you can save up to **\$2/acre** on eligible cereal herbicides when you book before **March 12, 2021**.

We also have something for Prairie horticulture producers: the **Hot Potatoes® Prairies Rewards Program** lets you save up to 19% on your crop protection needs.

And if you're thinking it's time put your farm's data to work for you, then

now is the time to become a BayerValue Rewards member. You'll be eligible for a complimentary one-year subscription to the **Climate FieldView™** platform plus up to 50% off the cost of Climate FieldView hardware*.

Visit GrowerPrograms.ca to find out more.



*Offer applies to a maximum rebate of \$2,000 for select hardware purchased on the Climate FieldView order portal only. For full details, visit ClimateFieldView.ca/BayerValue.

So many great seed choices!

If you haven't quite finalized your seed decisions for this year, we encourage you to visit **DEKALB.ca** to help fill in some of those blanks.

You'll find all the information you need about the newest DEKALB® canola and corn hybrids, and soybean varieties.

Click the "Harvest Results" button to check out our seed trial results. Now updated with 2020 harvest data, you can see how individual products performed region by region, plus you can look at year-over-year results from hundreds of local cooperator trials across Canada.

Complete information about all of our leading canola and corn hybrids, and soybean varieties – from traits to relative maturity to disease packages and more – can be found at **DEKALB.ca**. So if you're still looking for a good hybrid or variety to round out your seed selection this year, visit us online now!

