

Soybean Seed Treatment Considerations

Overview

Seed treatments can help protect soybean seeds and seedlings against a wide range of yield-threatening insects and diseases. The need for seed treatment depends on soil type, field history and pest pressure. Assess all factors before deciding whether to order seed treatment.

What you should know

- Disease and insect pressure can cause costly yield losses.
- Seed treatments can help to increase stand and vigor, promote earlier canopy closure and improve yield potential.
- Several factors, including field history, management practices and soil condition can affect choice of seed treatments.

Action steps

1. **Factor in field history:** If a field has a history of seedling diseases, there is a high risk of recurrence. Insecticidal treatments can reduce the threat of damage in fields already infested with insects.
2. **Consider planting date:** Early planting increases the possibility of achieving maximum yield, but also can increase disease risk if soybeans are planted into cold, wet soils. Wet, poorly drained soils can cause the development of fungal pathogens that can lead to seed disease. Fungicidal seed treatments can ward off pythium and fusarium, which pose the greatest disease threat.
3. **Assess your tillage plan:** Seedling disease risk is higher in no-till fields versus conventional tillage. Many pathogens survive and reproduce on crop residue. Large amounts of residue also reduce soil temperature and increase soil moisture.
4. **Determine pest pressure:** Bean leaf beetle, soybean aphid, white grub and wireworm are just a few examples of insects that can be controlled by seed treatments. Insecticidal treatments are especially beneficial early in the growing season, providing a longer window of time to scout for insect infestations. These treatments also may decrease the spread of insect-transmitted viruses.



Seed treatments can help soybean seedlings get off to a healthy start by offering protection against disease and pest pressures.



30-Second Summary

- Soybean seed treatments can protect against yield loss from disease and insects.
- Seed treatments help get seedlings off to a strong start.
- Multiple factors, including field history and condition, tillage practices and pressures should be considered in choosing soybean seed treatments.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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