

Protecting Pollinators: What can you do?

Insecticide-treated seed is a key part of agricultural production and provides significant benefits, such as delivering protection where it is most needed while limiting exposure to non-target species, like bees. However, it is important to reduce the exposure of bees to seed treatment dust. If you choose to plant insecticide-treated seed, there are certain steps you can take to reduce this risk.

If you are planning on using a seed flow lubricant, please consult the latest requirements from PMRA. Always follow directions for product use*



Best Management Practices

- **Control flowering weeds in the field prior to planting so that bees are not attracted to the field for foraging**
- **Provide pollinator-friendly habitats away from active fields**
- **Be aware of hive locations and monitor environmental conditions**
 - Be aware of wind direction as dry, windy conditions can carry dust onto flowering crops, weeds, or trees, increasing potential exposure of bees to seed treatment material
 - Discuss alternate locations with beekeepers (upwind, shelter belts, etc.) where possible
 - Not all planter types require seed flow lubricants; check with your dealer for more information.
- **Avoid generating dust when handling or loading treated seed**
 - Pour seeds carefully and do not shake dust or loose material from the bottom of the bag
 - Do not load or clean planting equipment near bee colonies or bee foraging areas
 - When turning on the planter, avoid engaging the system near bee colonies or bee foraging areas
- **Ensure proper clean-up and disposal**
 - Incorporate spilled or exposed seed into the soil rather than leaving it exposed
 - Keep treated seed and dust away from surface water
 - Properly dispose of empty seed bags in accordance with local regulations and participate in CleanFARMS collection programs where available
- **Speak to your equipment dealer or manufacturer about the appropriateness of deflector kits for North American vacuum planters**

For more information on pollinator health and best management practices for seed-applied insecticides, please visit Health Canada's [pollinator protection page](#).

