

LD  
5655  
A 761  
M 1197  
no. 147  
SPECIAL  
COLLECTION

Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg. Agricultural Extension Service  
MR-147.

CAROL M. NEWMAN LIBRARY  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

## TREAT SEED COTTON

All cotton seed should be treated before planting to kill germs that may be on the surface of the seed, and to protect the seed from decay by germs that are in the soil.

Seed treatment costs very little and is good insurance against unsatisfactory stands. It has been found to pay big dividends, especially when the seed carries disease germs and when cold, wet weather prevails during the planting season.

### Materials

Use Ceresan M at the rate of 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces per bushel of fuzzy seed or  $\frac{3}{4}$  ounce per bushel of delinted seed.

### How to Treat

Many ginners have excellent equipment for cleaning, delinting and treating cotton seed and usually do a better job than can be done on the farm. However, treatment can be made satisfactorily on the farm if a homemade rotating barrel or oil drum mixer is used. Directions for making the mixer are available from county agents. Fill the mixer about  $\frac{1}{2}$  full of seed and add the required amount of disinfectant. Turn the mixer slowly until the dust and seed are thoroughly mixed. After treatment, store the seed in piles and cover with bags for at least 24 hours. Keep the seed dry after treatment. Exposure to moisture or high humidity for long periods of time may result in injury to the seed. Treated seed may be stored safely for as much as one year if kept dry.

### Precautions

Mercury dusts are poisonous; therefore, treat seed out of doors or at least in a well ventilated building. Care should be taken to avoid breathing the dust. It is advisable to wear a dry-filter dust mask, especially if a large quantity of seed is being treated.

TREATED SEED IS POISONOUS AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE FED TO LIVESTOCK NOR SOLD TO OIL MILLS.

### Control Cotton Diseases

1. Get approved "wilt resistant" strains for use on soils subject to wilt.
2. Select the best cotton land on the farm and rotate plantings so that cotton does not follow cotton.
3. Treat all seed with Ceresan M before planting to prevent seed decay and seedling blights, and thus insure better stands of healthier plants.

MR-147  
S. B. Fenne  
1-1-50

-----  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, V.P.I. AND THE  
U.S.D.A. COOPERATING.