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CHEMICAL SEED TREATMENT OF VEGETABLE SEED

SPECIAL
COLLECTION

Nearly all home gardeners have had the experience of planting vegetable seeds in the spring, only to find later that the seeds rotted or else died off a short time after they came through the ground. In most instances, molds or fungi present on the seeds or in the soil are responsible for such rot or killing, and not just cold or wet weather. Such fungi attack the seeds as they lie in the ground or soon after they germinate. All seeds generally show benefit from seed treatment, especially those planted in cold soils.

In recent years, chemicals have been developed which, when dusted on the seeds before planting, offer considerable protection against this type of damage. These chemicals are slightly soluble in water, and when the treated seeds are planted, soil moisture dissolves some of the chemical and thus gives the young sprouts protection from certain soil fungi. Naturally, this action results in better stands and also favors the production of sturdier, larger plants by getting them past the critical stage.

Arasan and Spergon are recommended for vegetable seed treatment. They are adapted for use on nearly all vegetables, and, although relatively non-toxic to man, the user should follow the precautionary measures recommended by the manufacturer. Excesses of these chemicals are not liable to reduce germination, as sometimes happens with the older compounds. Application of these dusts is simple. The only equipment required is a teaspoon for measuring and a covered Mason-type jar in which the seed and chemical are placed and shaken for about one-half minute. The amount of dust needed is indicated on the manufacturer's label and should be followed by the commercial gardener. The home gardener with single packets of seed needs merely to place an amount of the chemical approximately the size of a match head inside the packet and shake it for 30 seconds. This distributes the chemical, and the seeds are then ready to plant. Treated seed can be stored without risk of injury from the treatment.

Arasan and Spergon are available in 1-ounce packages at most seed stores. Any unused chemical can be kept for several years without deterioration. Several seed companies now sell treated seeds. If the seed is treated, it will be so stated on the package. Seed already treated by the seed dealer should not be re-treated. Generally, however, treatment must be done by the individual gardener.

Plant treated seed and notice the difference in stand and vigor.

DOSAGE RATES FOR VEGETABLES (per pound of seed)

<u>Kind</u>	<u>Arasan or Spergon</u>	
Beans (green or wax), lima	1/3	level teaspoonful
Beets	1 1/2	" "
Cabbage, broccoli, etc.	2/3	" "
Carrots	2/3	" "
Sweet Corn	1/3	" "
Cucumbers, cantaloupes, etc.	1/2	" "
Lettuce	1	" "
Onion	2/3	" "
Parsnip	1 1/2	" "
Peas	1/3	" "
Spinach	2/3	" "
Tomato	2/3	" "

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