SEED TREATMENT OF SOYBEANS

Soybeans are affected by several seed-borne diseases that are a menace to the crop. Effective control measures for several of these diseases have been devised. Research workers have learned that seed treatment with such chemicals as Arasan and Spergon will greatly increase the germination and stand of soybeans, especially where seed of low viability is used. Seed treatment has a dual purpose. The disinfectant kills the disease producing fungi present on the seed and also protects the seed against seed-rotting organisms present in the soil.

The results of research work in other states indicate that Arasan and Spergon seed treatment will not prevent inoculation. It is recommended that when treated seed are inoculated with commercial inoculants, the seed be held not longer than two hours before planting. If held longer they should be re-inoculated. In other words, if soybean seed are to be inoculated, the seed should first be treated with Arasan or Spergon, and then the inoculant added just before planting the seed.

The seed treating dusts are best applied to the seed in some kind of mixing machine such as a concrete mixer, revolving barrel treater, or the Minnesota seed treater. Plans for constructing the latter two may be obtained from your county agent.

Procedure: 1. If the Minnesota seed treater is used, add 2 ounces of Arasan or Spergon dust to each bushel of seed, dump the seed into the treater, and catch the treated seed in a bag as it comes out.

2. If a revolving mixer is used, the seed and dust are added to the mixer in the proportion of 2 ounces of dust to each bushel of seed. The barrel or mixer is then turned slowly for about 40 revolutions, after which the treated seed is removed and bagged.

Precautions: When large quantities of seed are to be treated, the work should be done out of doors, or dust masks should be worn by the workmen.

Seed treated with chemicals is poisonous and should be kept out of reach of animals; consequently, any surplus seed not needed for planting should be buried or otherwise disposed of.

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