



A large, white, stylized letter 'S' on a black background.

Seed treatment is a term you have probably heard before.

But what does it mean exactly? What is its purpose, why do many farmers treat seed while others don't, and what are the procedures and cautions of using seed treatment?

The purpose of seed treatment is to help give the seed a start on growth while it is still germinating. Often treatments are used to prevent pests, fungus, disease and more from damaging the shell and seed inside. Different types of treatment are used for certain circumstances as well, such as specific insecticidal treatment, fungicides, and general pesticides. Some even hold moisture to help seeds grow!

Treatment is often used by farmers as a preventative measure, but many still do not use seed treatment relying on other methods such as early spraying, later seeding (into warmer soil) different varieties or crop rotations.

Seed treatments are chemicals and have specific handling rules that farmers follow for use, storage and disposal. Safety is important on the farm!

There are also other ways to treat seed, in our experiment, we are giving the seeds a 'snack' while they germinate by providing a nutrient-rich coating of worm castings (yum!).

READ and FOLLOW the instructions

- Take your pea seeds (20 seeds at a time)
- Dampen seeds slightly with a mist of water or by patting with a damp paper towel
- Place inside the provided paper cup
- Open worm castings and pour enough in the cup to cover the seeds
- Stir with the provided stick until the seeds are covered
- Plant seeds, water and watch them grow

Remember

The TREATED seed must not be allowed to contaminate your house. (And by contaminating we mean to make a mess, right grown-ups?)

You can plant all your treated seeds or store leftover seeds in a sealed container for later planting. (Remember worm castings, like we are using are helpful for the soil, so left over castings can be put the soil around your plants inside or outside)

Label the treated seed with the chemical used. (This one is just for fun but is a requirement for real farmers who treat seed!)

The treated seed must be stored securely in order to prevent spillage. (also to prevent messes!)

A large, white, stylized letter 'T' on a black background.

A large, white, stylized letter 'F' on a black background.

A large, white, stylized letter 'A' on a black background.

A large, white, stylized letter 'M' on a black background.



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