

DISPOSAL OF TREATED SEED

Proper disposal of treated seed is necessary for protecting people, animals, and the environment from unintended pesticide release and contamination. If you must dispose of treated seed, first check the label/seed bag tag; treatment active ingredients may come with specific restrictions on disposal.

TREATED SEED DISPOSAL OPTIONS

1. Plant it - The best option for a small quantity of leftover seed may be to plant it in fallow or other non-cropped areas of the farm. NOTE: Follow seed bag tag restrictions and directions. If the tag states the treated seed may be hazardous to wildlife, do NOT seed for wildlife habitat.
 - a. Use an agronomically and label acceptable seeding rate, using normal practices for that crop (for example, local planting dates and soil temperatures).
 - b. Refer to seed bag tag for directions on planting depth.
 - c. Immediately cover small quantities of treated seed that are spilled during loading and in areas such as row ends, and plant seed away from bodies of water. Collect and dispose of spilled seed according to the label. Treated seed left on the surface can be harmful to wildlife, result in runoff, or have potential to contaminate water.
 - d. Unless restricted by label statements, excess treated seed may be double planted in the turn rows at the end of the field or within a portion of the field.
2. Return to the manufacturer – Seed companies may accept unopened and/or opened containers of seed. Contact your seed dealer for more information.
3. Landfill – Contact your local landfill* to see if they accept treated seed. Landfill disposal is often costly and usually not practical for large volumes of treated seed; permits may be required.
4. Incinerate – Boilers, such as at a power plant or cement kiln, may be permitted to burn treated seed as a fuel source. For more information on air permitting requirements, go to Construction Permitting**.

* - <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Solid-Waste>

** - <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Air-Quality/Construction-Permits>

WHAT **NOT** TO DO WITH TREATED SEED

- ⊘ Composting is NEVER recommended for pesticide-treated seed. The active ingredients are not consistently broken down by the composting process and create a concentrated waste.
- ⊘ Broadcasting and incorporating treated seed at higher-than-normal seeding rates is NEVER recommended for treated seed.
- ⊘ Burning treated seed in an open pit or wood or corn stove used in the home or shop is NEVER recommended because the pesticides can emit toxins when burned. Burning treated seed can emit low levels of hydrochloric acids and thiophosgene, also known as mustard gas.
- ⊘ Sending to ethanol plants that produce by-products used for livestock feed or agronomic practices is NEVER recommended.
- ⊘ Recycling of used seed bags that contained treated seed is NEVER recommended.

QUESTIONS

- Landfill questions – Susan Johnson, Iowa DNR, (515) 217-0872, Susan.Johnson@dnr.iowa.gov
- Incineration questions – Christine Paulson, Iowa DNR, (515) 725-9510, Christine.Paulson@dnr.iowa.gov

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