



Best Practices for Inoculant Use



DO



Do consider the field you are planting, what is the legume and inoculation history? What is the soil pH? Soils that have a pH above 7.8 or below 5.5 require inoculation every time. If it has been 4 years since the legume was grown in this field, be sure to inoculate.



Do use the correct inoculant for the legume you are planting. Each legume type has a specific rhizobium strain that is effective in fixing nitrogen for that legume. Using the correct strain is essential for nodule formation.



Do use fresh inoculant. Be sure to check the expiration date on your inoculant package. Rhizobia in the soil can become ineffective over time. Although they may remain good nodulators, they can become lazy and not fix nitrogen effectively. Fresh rhizobium will maximize yield benefits as these rhizobia will out-compete the indigenous rhizobia in the soil.



Do consider double inoculating with both on-seed and in-furrow applications. This is especially important when planting in fields that have not grown the legume you are planting, when the pH is above 7.8 or below 5.5, or when you are planting into dry soil.



Do use clean equipment and tanks. It is recommended that you clean your inoculant tank weekly to ensure no remaining residue or fungal growth is present, which could be detrimental to the rhizobium.

DON'T



Don't use tap water with inoculant. Always use non-chlorinated water. Chlorine has been added to most public water supplies and will be harmful to the rhizobium. If you do not have access to non-chlorinated water, you could optionally use de-chlorination tablets or allow chlorine to dissipate by leaving water in a clean, open container for 24 hours.



Don't leave inoculant or inoculated seed in direct sunlight. Rhizobium are living organisms that need proper care to insure viability. Store inoculant between 40° and 77° F and in areas that will not be fumigated. Do not open package until ready to use and do not allow product or packaging to become wet or exposed to high humidity. Never allow inoculant product to freeze.



Don't wait too long before planting. Inoculants used in conjunction with extenders may have longer planting windows. However, in farmer-applied and planter box treatment, be sure to plant inoculated seed within 24 hours of being inoculated or within 6 hours if the seed has been coated with a fungicide.



Don't mix inoculants directly with fertilizers. Some types of fertilizer can be toxic to rhizobia. Never mix inoculant with any kind of fertilizer or pesticide without first referring to Visjon Biologics compatibility charts.

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The Inoculant Experts