

# TREATING DRY PEA SEED

## BENEFITS OF TREATING SEED.

1. Provides protection to the germinating seed and young seedlings during and after emergence, and protects the yield potential of the chosen variety of peas
2. Provides protection when the pea seed has damaged seed coats and hairline cracks that can provide easy entry of pathogens into the germinating seed
3. Promotes uniform emergence that can be especially beneficial when using seed that is not of optimal quality

## HOW TO REDUCE MECHANICAL DAMAGE DURING THE SEED TREATING PROCESS.

Pea seeds can be susceptible to mechanical damage during harvest, handling, storage and seeding. Dry pea seed (14 percent or less seed moisture) is brittle and can be difficult to handle without chipping and splitting the seed. All handling should be performed as gently as possible. To understand seed germination levels, it is always advisable to send the pea seed to a certified seed lab for testing. If handling damage is suspected, the final cleaned seed lot should be re-tested.

Growers should first select the pea varieties that will perform best on their farms, and then select the highest quality that is available. Available seed supply will play a role in the final decision-making process.

With extra care, mechanical damage caused during handling can be minimized.

## TIPS AND TRICKS TO MINIMIZE SEED DAMAGE:

1. Consider carefully whether the available pea seed lot is fit for seeding
2. Handle seed as gently and as little as possible when applying seed treatments and then moving into the seeding equipment
3. Operate the treater at or near top capacity to further reduce the potential for mechanical damage during the treating process
4. Use conveyors rather than flighted augers to move and elevate the pea seed. Use letdown devices (spiral chutes) to slow the fall of seed into trucks and wagons to reduce further mechanical damage to the seed
5. If using an auger (including for secondary mixing), ensure sufficient liquid is applied to the seed before it enters the auger
6. Water and seed treatments will soften the seed coat and allow for some additional handling. Too much water can cause drying issues. Start with the recommended mixing ratios (i.e., for Trilex® EverGol® [7:1]) and adjust accordingly
7. If necessary, apply water before the seed enters the first transfer auger (i.e., mist seed with water using a handheld sprayer at a rate of about 150mL/100kg)
8. Run augers full and as slow as possible to reduce damage to the seed
9. Drum-style treaters are always the best and gentlest way to treat pulse seed, but with care, other treater types can get the job done
10. Turn down the fan on seeders and adjust the seeding speed accordingly
11. Count actual cracking of the seed, and further adjust the handling process as needed

