

DUST TREATMENT FOR SEED CORN DISEASES

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Dry rot diseases of corn carried on the seed are present each year and in some seasons cause considerable loss in stand and yield. Other mold fungi, also usually present, contribute to weak seedlings and poor stands. High quality seed corn may be obtained by (1) early field selection, (2) rapid drying, (3) good storage, and (4) seed treatment.

Tests conducted at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and in farmer's fields throughout the state have shown that seed treatments increase yield when corn is planted in cold, wet soil. Treated seed can be planted earlier than untreated seed thus permitting earlier harvesting and selection of seed corn in the field. Seed treatment does not take the place of good seed but is a cheap form of insurance for a stand under adverse conditions. One pound of seed treatment dust will treat 8 bushels of seed, at a cost of 2 to 3 cents per acre.

HOW TO TREAT AND THE DUST TO USE

The dust disinfectant can be mixed with the seed corn in a barrel churn, rotary oil drum treater, cement mixer or "Minnesota" seed grain treater*. The treater is filled half full of corn and dust added at the rate of 2 ounces (2 heaping tablespoons) to the bushel. Turn the rotary mixer slowly for at least 3 minutes. The treated corn can be sacked and stored or planted at once. Store treated corn in a dry place.

For treating seed corn New Improved Semesan Jr., Merko, or Barbak III may be used. These materials are equally effective and may be purchased from local drug or hardware stores, elevators, or seedsmen.

CAUTION—All of these dusts are poisonous. Do not breathe the dust. Cover nose and mouth with handkerchief or use respirator when treating. Treated grain should not be fed to livestock. Keep dusts out of reach of children.

*Detailed plans for making the "Minnesota" grain seed treater may be obtained from your county agricultural agent or the Extension Division, Michigan State College.

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