

How to drill safely



Vital

– remember:



Wear appropriate PPE including coverall and gloves. If necessary, use a face mask. Seed treatments are pesticides and should be handled accordingly. Be sure to read seed tags



Prevent accidental emission of dust into the atmosphere during loading and drilling seed



Don't leave treated seed exposed on the soil surface for birds and wildlife to eat

When you drill:



Don't broadcast or autocast treated seed



Don't fill drills on grassy areas as spills are harder to clear up



Don't tip dust into the drill – leave it in the seed bag



Drill to the right depth (4 cm), seed rate and speed for the treatment you're using



Clean up spills immediately; carry a spill kit comprising a spade, spare bag with label and canvas sheet



Ensure the drill will not drop seed when transported or when lifting at headlands

Before you drill:



Use quality, well-cleaned seed treated by a Bayer-approved supplier



Store treated seed securely



Handle bags of seed carefully and take your time loading the drill. Abrasion creates dust; damage may result in spilt seed



Critically assess the prepared seedbed; does it have stony, cloddy or trashy areas that might limit seed coverage and give uneven emergence?



Check that the drill has been maintained and calibrated, and that coulters are set up correctly

After you drill:



Check fields carefully, particularly headlands and turning areas to ensure seed is well covered. If any seed is exposed, cover with soil



If you use contractors, check their work – a good job includes proper stewardship



Remove all seed from the drill, ensuring seed and dust are collected into labelled bags for safe storage or disposal



Don't re-use empty bags that have contained treated seed



Record drilling operations, settings and any problems. Note the seed tag treatment and drilling date: this will influence follow-up spray decisions