

Fluency Agent **Mandatory** Seed Lubricant in Corn and Soybean

Corn planting is (slowly) underway across Southern Manitoba and questions/comments are coming in again on use of Fluency Agent.

As you may remember, mandatory Fluency Agent use was introduced in 2014/2015 to reduce the dusting off of seed treatments during the planting process. This change was made to reduce insecticide active ingredient released during planting and resulting exposure risk to non-target insects, including bees.

Below are some requirements (and exceptions) as stated by PMRA for using a seed flow lubricant for planting corn and soybean seed treated with neonicotinoid insecticides (containing the active ingredients clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam).

1) Fluency Agent is mandatory use when planting **corn and soybeans**. **All other crops are exempt. Graphite is not a fluency agent.**

2) Fluency Agent must be used if using a **seed flow lubricant** for planting **corn and soybean seed** treated with neonicotinoid insecticides (containing the active ingredients clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam). **Talc and graphite are not permitted for use as a seed flow lubricant.**

3) **Exceptions** to the above include:

- Planting machinery that does not currently require the use of a seed flow lubricant. That is, if **you haven't used lubricant before, you don't need to use the Fluency Agent now.**
- The use of graphite may continue as a mechanical lubricant in finger pickup or mechanical type planters only (i.e. non-pneumatic equipment).

Still in doubt of the mandatory aspect, here is PMRA's website explaining this criteria and further information on Fluency Agent: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/pollinator-treated-seed/treated-corn-soybean-seed.html>

PMRA's "Pollinator Protection and Responsible Use of Treated Seed – Best Management Practices" - <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/pollinator-treated-seed/best-management-practices.html>