

# Production roundup



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Being able to buy half your corn seed for next year with a neonic seed treatment is fairly easy. Getting all of it treated will take a bit more work

## Insecticide seed treatment options for 2016

Now that the province's new neonic seed treatment regulations are going into effect, Ontario corn and soybean growers will have to learn how to get along without the popular technology.

Well, not completely. At least not yet.

The powers-that-be are offering growers a special one year introductory deal to help wean them off the technology. As long as you jump through a couple of fairly easy hoops you'll still be able to use the seed treatments on half of your corn and half of your soybean acres. If you want to continue using all

neonic-treated seed, the hoops get a little tougher.

To take the easier route, the first thing you need to do is get a hold of a declaration form, says former OMAFRA corn lead and now chief agronomist at Maizex Seeds, Greg Stewart. It's available online or you can get one through a local CCA.

On the form you must declare that you intend to plant seed with a Class 12 insecticide – a neonic seed treatment. That will allow you to buy treated seed for a maximum of 50 per cent of your corn and 50 per cent of

your soybean acreage. "It's not too difficult," he says.

There's no chance to be cre-

ative here, Stewart warns. You can't just decide to not use the seed treatments on any of your soys but all of your corn, even if that means only 50 per cent of your overall seed is treated. It can be no more than half your corn and half your soy seed, he stresses.

One other required step is to include a map to identify the property where the seed is to be planted. You need a 911 number as well as a map or hand-drawn sketch to show where the field is and its acreage as well as which part will get the neonic-treated seed, Stewart says.

The completed form should be submitted to your seed vendor to ensure they get the desired amount of seed.

These steps will take you through the 2016 growing season but it gets tougher after that. If you're still interested in planting at least part of your acreage to neonic-treated seed you will have to take an integrated pest management course. These will be offered for free throughout the winter season, Stewart says. By August of next year you will need that course completion in order to purchase this seed.

But you will have to prove that you really need them. That means doing a pest assessment, such as digging holes throughout the field to scout for pests like wireworm and chafer. Those findings must be documented on a form to prove that your field is at risk and you need the seed treatments.

While that assessment will be mandatory for the 2017 season, it is also available for the upcoming planting season, stresses Pride Seeds vice-president of marketing Stephen Denys. If you want to

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