

Seed treatment FAQ's

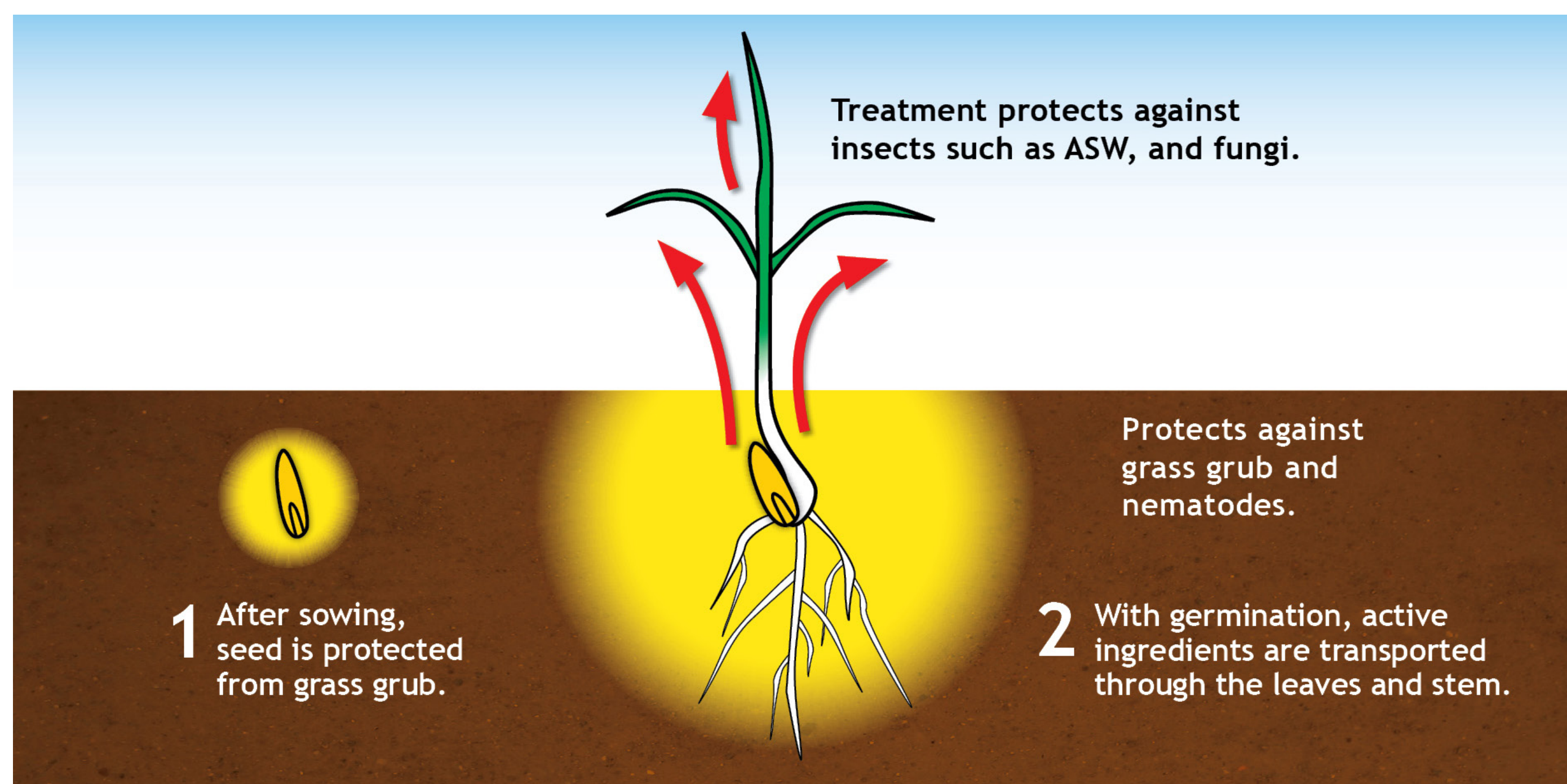
Seed treatment

Seed Treatment

Seed treatment is the process of treating individual seeds with a mix of fungicides and/or insecticides (and sometimes nutrients) to protect and enhance establishment.

How does it work?

AGRICOTE treatments contain enough insecticide and/or fungicide to last approximately 6 weeks post-sowing, the time that young plants are most vulnerable to insect attack and disease. The active ingredients are systemic. As well as protecting the seed itself, they 'grow' through the seedling as it emerges. Grass seedlings have little protection from their endophyte until approximately 6 weeks after sowing. So plants rely on seed treatment for protection during that time.



How do you use it in a programme?

Seed treatment is proven technology, but is not a silver bullet. It gives good control of low to moderate insect pressure. Where insect numbers are likely to be high, a wider control programme is needed.

Grass-to-grass renewal

In grass-to-grass (or cereal to grass) pasture renewal via spray-drilling, Argentine stem weevil (ASW) can be

present in very high numbers. Generally, we advise adding an insecticide when spraying out the paddock to reduce the ASW population. Then use *AGRICOTE Grass* to protect establishing seedlings from surviving and newly hatching ASW.

Brassica crops

Insect pests like springtails can be present in huge numbers, many thousands per square metre. Seed treatment will kill springtails nipping seedlings, but by the time many springtails have each nipped a seedling, the crop will be seriously damaged. Monitor newly sown brassica crops daily for the first 14 days, and use an appropriate insecticide if pest pressure is high.

Slugs in direct-drilling

Seed treatments provide no protection for slugs, which can be a major problem in new pastures, particularly where they are direct-drilled. Monitor paddock for slugs, and bait as necessary.

Are there H&S needs?

Safe handling is a must. We sow handling and sowing instructions in every bag of *AGRICOTE* treated seed. Also a Stewardship Guide for treated seed is available at www.nzgsta.co.nz