

ADVERTORIAL

BASF SOYBEAN INOCULANTS

Insist on high quality, fresh inoculants.

Farmers planting soybeans should purchase an appropriate inoculant at the beginning of the season to treat the seed prior to planting.

An inoculant is not a chemical seed treatment. Farmers should remember they are purchasing a living organism, namely *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*. Being a living organism, it needs to be treated as such. Farmers should handle the product accordingly, from the time the inoculant is purchased, to its application onto the seed and ultimately, its planting in the field.

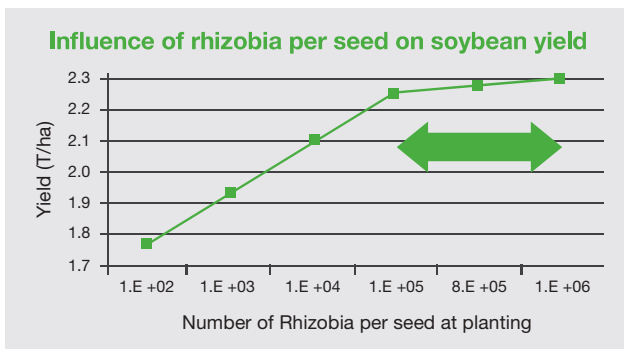
What is the shelf life of a soybean inoculant?

There are two important aspects to note with almost all biological products. Firstly, the rhizobia will slowly die over time - this is expected and factored into the expiry date stated on the product. The second point is that the shelf life expectancy is based on the product being stored under certain conditions. As a rule, the higher the temperature, the faster the rhizobia will perish. Important to note is that *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* will, when frozen, immediately die. The product and inoculated seed should always be stored in a cool place prior to application or plant.

What is the importance of the number of rhizobia in the final product?

BASF has conducted extensive studies to prove that when soybean inoculants are applied and the seed is planted, a direct correlation between the number of rhizobia per seed and the final yield of the soybeans becomes evident.

BASF trials show that if an application delivers less than 100,000 rhizobia per seed, the maximum yield potential is under achieved.



It is important to note that a double dose of inoculant should be applied when a field is being planted with soybeans for the first time as no endemic population occurs in the soil.



Insist on fresh.

When purchasing a soybean inoculant, it may be difficult to ascertain whether the product has been freshly produced. Farmers must check the date of manufacture and/or expiry to ensure that the purchased product will perform as expected. No expired product should be applied for the use intended.

All BASF inoculant packs include highly specialised TTI labels (inserted into the packaging carton). This "TTI label" has a Viability Indicator sticker which is time and temperature sensitive. A graphic illustration indicates how the inoculant has been stored prior to being delivered on farm and allows the farmer to immediately confirm if the product has been exposed to excessive temperatures and is unsuitable for use or not.

Producers can rest assured that BASF only markets freshly manufactured products each season.

What is the importance of soybean inoculant packaging?

Bradyrhizobium japonicum, being a living organism, requires oxygen to survive. Without oxygen the viability of the bacterial spores will diminish with death ultimately occurring.

Packaging plays an important role to ensure that farmers receive product that has the highest possible quantity of viable rhizobia prior to application and planting.

All BASF's inoculant products are packaged in a patented dual layer packaging system that is designed to hold the contents but allows for oxygen to permeate freely. The physical configuration of the packaging furthermore ensures that the largest surface area possible is exposed to enable oxygen transfer to the rhizobia.

BASF caters for various farmer preferences including the offer of peat or liquid based products, same day treatment and plant solutions as well as on-seed survival inoculants.

HiStick® – Peat based inoculant for treatment and plant within 24 hours.

Rhizoflo™ – Liquid based inoculant for treatment and plant within 24 hours.

Rhizoflo™ Professional – Liquid based inoculant for up to 21 days on-seed survival when stored below 20 °C.

Always read the label and follow the usage instructions.

For enquiries, visit our website for your closest BASF representative.

www.agro.basf.co.za



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We create chemistry