

SEED DRESSINGS - WHAT TO KNOW

One question often asked by farmers is: "Which is the best: foliar, seed dressings or soil applied micronutrients?"

In short, all three application methods play an important role and much depends on your equipment's ability to effectively deliver micro nutrients to the soil or to the plant. However, the bottom line is that if you are deficient in a particular micro-nutrient: do try to get it into your plant by any means!

Von Liebig's Law of the Minimum states that 'plant growth and yield are governed by nutrients in the least supply, not by those in abundant supply'. In other words the nutrient which is most deficient in your soil will determine the outcome of your crop. In Australian soils the common nutrient which is deficient is zinc.

BENEFITS OF SEED DRESSINGS

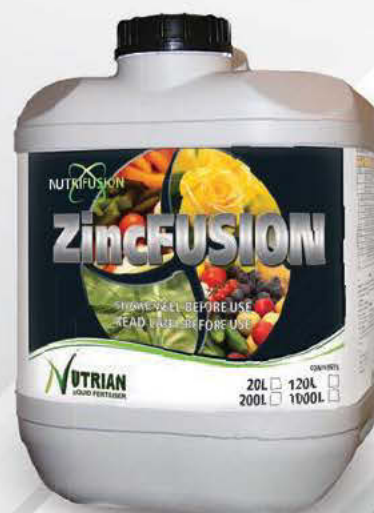
Seed dressing is a quick and effective way to apply micronutrients directly to your seed and is of particular use when you do not have a liquid cart and when you need to ensure that you successfully get your micronutrients into the soil and plant. Seed dressing's are compatible with wide range of fungicides.

WHAT SEED DRESSINGS SHOULD I USE?

There are limited products out there that can be effectively used. Our advice is to use a well-formulated product that offers you the best 'bang for your buck'. In order to ensure that you are achieving this, ask yourself these three questions:

1. How many micronutrients am I getting on per tonne of seed at the recommended rate?
2. What other products are there in the micronutrient seed dressing formulation that will assist with the germination and improve the performance of the micronutrient?
3. Are the products easy to apply to the seed?

It is always recommended that you follow up seed dressing with a foliar application post emergence where you have severe deficiencies or where the seed is sub-standard.



HOW ZINC ACTS ON THE SEED AND SEEDLING.

Zinc is one of the most critical micronutrients as it is involved in over 300 enzyme functions which facilitate the plant's metabolism and function and especially for the efficient use of nitrogen. Zinc is also the catalyst for the production of auxin, which is the growth hormone responsible for root growth and development. Further zinc works closely with phosphate for the production of ATP, which is the energy source of the seedling.

Zinc seed dressing trials have been carried out on soils with known rhizotonia problems and the results were positive with vigorous root growth, when applied with a good quality fungicide.

ZincFUSION is a chelated Zinc and does not need dilution. ZincFUSION is a highly active form of Zinc and goes to work immediately the seed is in the soil. Like EZYFLOW Zinc, ZincFUSION assists the plant in producing the growth hormones necessary for vigorous root and leaf growth.

EZYFLOW ZINC contains kelp, a highly effective germinator that works in conjunction with zinc to assist the plant in producing the growth hormones necessary for vigorous root and leaf growth.

Further, EZYFLOW ZINC is finely ground to 1-2 microns and contains complex carbohydrates (carbon) to ensure that micronutrient is active and starts to work immediately that the seed is in the soil.

Zinc is a Potassium synergist i.e. Zinc assists by increasing Potassium uptake in the plant. Potassium increases drought tolerance by reducing water loss in plants and increases frost resistance.

The key differences between EZYFLOW ZINC and NutriFUSION ZincFUSION are:

1. The oxide is more concentrated than the chelate and therefore EZYFLOW ZINC contains more Zinc per litre.
2. NutriFUSION ZincFUSION is an easier product to apply and has a low viscosity.



Figure 1.
The seed on the left has not been treated whilst the seed on the right was treated with EZYFLOW ZINC.



Figure 2.
Rhizotonia trials 2012.

