

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_

**Inoculating Legume Seed****WHAT IS INOCULATING LEGUME SEED?**

Inoculating is putting necessary bacteria on seed and in the soil to grow nodules on roots of legume plants. All legumes need inoculation (lespedeza, clovers, vetch, peas, alfalfa, etc).

**HOW IT HELPS THE LAND**

The nodules on the roots of the plants feed nitrogen to the plant and also store it for the next crops to use.

**WHERE TO GET HELP**

For additional information, contact your local Natural Resource Conservation Service or your local Conservation District Office.

**APPLYING THE PRACTICE**

The seed should be well coated with inoculant. Inoculant containers have directions for proper use of the material. Follow those directions carefully.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

All legumes should be inoculated unless it is known that the same crop has been grown recently on the field and was properly inoculated. Even then, it is cheap insurance to inoculate every year.

Not all legumes use the same inoculants. There are several groups and each group uses a different kind of inoculation. Tell the seed dealer what you are planting, and he will see you the right inoculant. Look on the container for date; do **not** use old inoculant.

**CAUTION**

Do not mix inoculant seed with lime or fertilizer. Do not inoculate more seed than you can plant in a few hours. Keep inoculated seed out of sun and plant immediately. Any seed inoculated and not planted the same day should be inoculated again before planting.

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

---