

Wet Chill Procedures to Break Dormancy of Switchgrass
(if ragdoll test shows <40% germination, consider wet chill)

1. Put 25 to 35 pounds of seed in a plastic mesh feed bag

2. Place seed in a cool place to reduce temperature before soaking.

3. Place the plastic mesh feed bag in cold water for 24 hours

4. Remove the seed from the cold water and allow to drain for 24 hours in a cold place

5. After draining, place the plastic mesh feed bags in a cooling unit at 38-42oF for 21 days

- Place the bags so they are not touching each other; do not put a bag on a solid floor or shelf that would restrict air flow
- Flatten the bag for uniform thickness for even cooling
- Place the sensor of an indoor/outdoor thermometer in the seed inside the bag
- Subsample the seed at 7 to 14 days for another ragdoll test

6. After 21 days of cooling, remove the seed from the cooling unit and dry in a shaded place (out of the sun) until it is flowable in a drill

7. Plant the chill treated seed as soon as possible