Cereals & Grains

Seed treatment is one of the the most effective ways of treating cereal crops as it is considerably less expensive than foliar sprays, and because it is targeted to the seed, and all of the nutrient is available for uptake straight away.
Whilst there are numerous seed treatments, a simple seed treatment mixture of 2-3 parts of liquid seaweed, 2-3 parts of **FISH EMULSUION**, 1 part of molasses (and possibly a small amount of fulvic acid (as the potassium salt), is both simple and effective.
This type of treatment gives good results with an increase in germination and early establishment of the crop when used at about 3 litres per tonne of seed.
The cost of a simple seed treatment works out at less than $5 per hectare (plus minor labour costs).
Care needs to be taken so that the seeds are sown soon after treatment. Seed treatment of this kind can be very worthwhile provided follow up rains are received in winter and early spring.

The seaweed that should be used should be a pure seaweed product such as **NB3**, **GOLD 600**, **GOLD 100** or **SUPERFINE**.
Do not use a fortified products such as **PREMIUM**, as it may reduce germination of the seeds.

Broad Acre Cereals
There has been much work on the effect of liquid seaweed on cereals, particularly overseas. There is no doubt that application of liquid seaweeds during the early stages of growth increases yield. It is recommended that **PREMIUM**, **SUPERFINE** or **GOLD 100** be used at 10 L/ha.

Irrigated Cereal Crops
Grains grown on irrigated land can benefit significantly from liquid seaweed application. Increases in yields of at least 10% can be expected in a typical season. It is recommended that **PREMIUM**, **SUPERFINE** or **GOLD 100** be used at 10 L/ha.

Saline soils and brackish irrigation water
Liquid seaweed applications can reduce the effect of soil salinity on yields. Sprays in total of 15-25 L/ha should be spread over three to four applications. The concentration of salt in the soil depends on the moisture content and liquid seaweed should be applied as soon as salinity stress is apparent.
If irrigating with slightly saline water, liquid seaweed should be applied a few days before irrigation.

Benefits
Some of the many benefits observed are;

- Increased tillering.
- Stronger stalks and less tendency to lodge close to harvest.
- Increased resistance to drought.
- Better grain quality and higher yields.
- Increased root development.
- Increased tolerance of salinity.

	NB3	SUPERFINE	SUPERFINE PREMIUM	GOLD 600	GOLD 100	SUPERFINE SPURT
Nitrogen (N)			5.7%			10%
Phosphorus (P)			1.0%			0.3%
Potassium (K)	3.4%	3.4%	5.6%	3.4%	3.4%	4.8%
Sulphur (S)	0.8%	0.8%	6000 ppm	0.8%	0.8%	6000 ppm
Copper (Cu)			555 ppm			300 ppm
Zinc (Zn)			555 ppm			300 ppm
Manganese (Mn)			105 ppm			100 ppm
Molybdenum (Mo)			10 ppm			10 ppm
Boron (B)			60 ppm			60 ppm
Spray Type	Coarse	Fine	Fine	Coarse	Fine	Fine
Comments	Filtered to 600 micron	Filtered to 100 micron	Filtered to 100 micron	Filtered to 600 micron	Filtered to 100 micron	Filtered to 100 micron

%W/V is grams per 100ml of product
ppm is parts per million on weight basis

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