

**Novozymes  
BioAg™ best  
practice guide**

Every batch of every Novozymes BioAg™ product is developed with rigorous quality control and held to the highest standards. We take extra steps to design and produce reliable products that help optimize the value of every seed.

## 1. Daily quality checks on every fermentation tank and continued evaluation

Trained experts examine samples from every batch under the microscope, every day, to look for potential contaminants. This is standard operating procedure during commercial production. Every sample is closely monitored on agar plates as it grows over time. This enables us to find any undesirable organisms that were too small to detect at first.

### What this means

You can feel confident that the amount of active microorganisms meets or exceeds what is on the label.

## 2. Fine-tuned nutrient sources

Like elite athletes, bacteria need specific amounts of high-quality carbohydrates and other nutrients to perform their best. Their “food” is the liquid they live in — which is what you see in the bag you buy. We’re constantly improving the recipe.

### What this means

Our products keep getting better and better. To date, we’ve:

- Lengthened shelf life.
- Achieved consistent quality from batch to batch.
- Lowered application rates.
- Improved in-field performance.

## 3. <0.1% bag contamination rate

Our specially designed bag-filling system reduces the risk of contamination at this critical stage. We wish we could tell you more but it’s proprietary.

### What this means

The quality we achieve during fermentation is protected as our products leave the tank and move one step closer to the field.

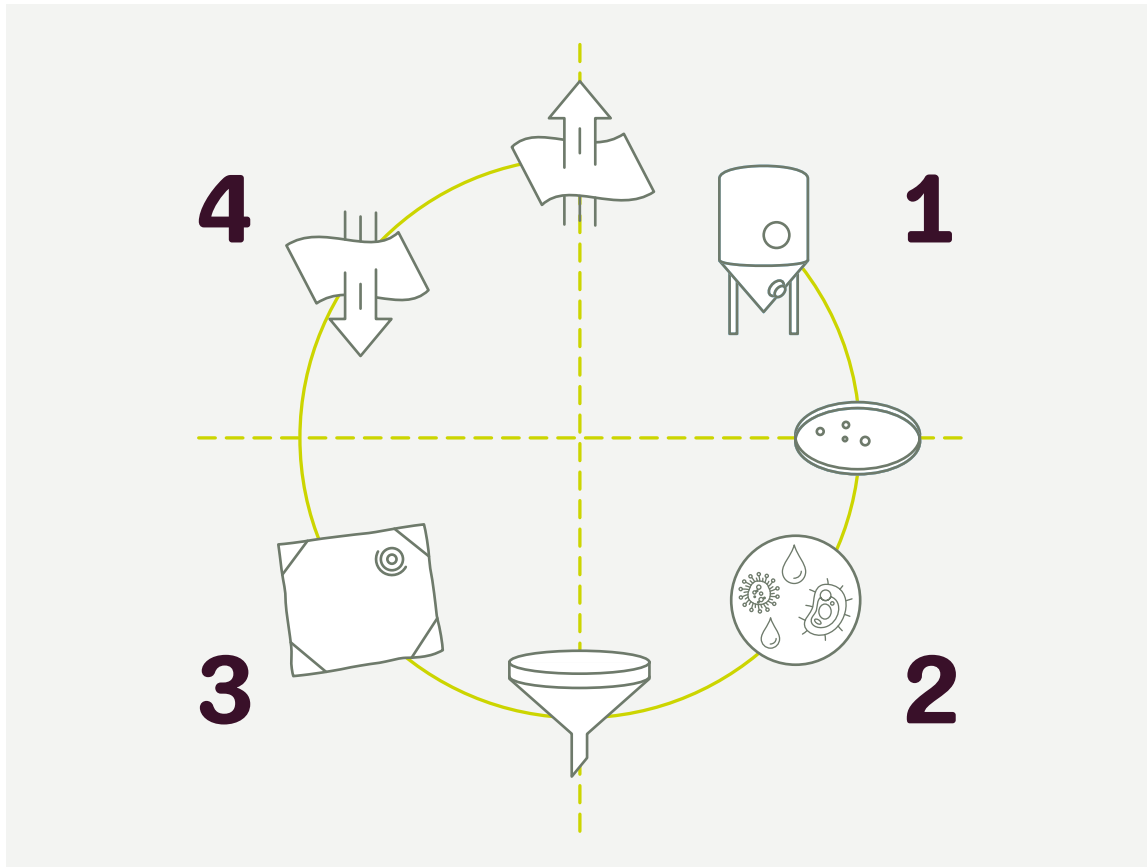
## 4. Breathable bags and ideal surface area-to-volume ratio

Bradyrhizobia need oxygen, just like you do. Our breathable bags let oxygen in and CO<sub>2</sub> out, unlike hard-sided containers that can trap and prevent gas exchange. Plus, our optimized surface area-to-volume ratio (which affects the gas exchange rate) helps the Bradyrhizobia remain effective for up to two years. Our clear bags also help you make sure that the bacteria are evenly mixed before use, so your customers get what they're paying for on every seed. By comparison, some keg-style systems make it difficult to resuspend product once they're connected to treaters.

Identifying contamination in a keg is also more difficult, which can lead to lost time cleaning contaminated equipment. Bladders and separate cone tank systems are far less likely to have this problem.

### What this means

- Longer shelf life helps improve inventory management.
- Growers get a reliable product, every time.
- Our products can be agitated in treaters to ensure the active microorganisms are evenly suspended, resulting in a uniform application to every seed.



## Our approach to innovation

As the innovation leader in the marketplace, Novozymes BioAg™ continues to develop bio-enhancers that help growers produce more with less. As we bring new products to market, we focus on:

- Leveraging naturally occurring processes to boost productivity.
- Supporting the management of natural resources on your farm.
- Promoting sustainability in a way that benefits agriculture, consumers, the environment and society as a whole.
- Delivering even more measurable impact to farming operations.
- Helping meet the demands of an ever-growing world.



## Best management practices

### Optimize® XC and TagTeam® LCO XC technologies

With these two Novozymes BioAg™ products, applicators can provide high-quality inoculants with a lower application rate. Optimize® XC and TagTeam® LCO XC technologies both have application rates of 1.5 fluid ounces per 100 pounds of seed. Earlier Optimize® and TagTeam® formulations had an application rate of 2.8 fluid ounces per 100 pounds of seed. Following these best management practices will provide dealers and their growers a good experience.

### Living organisms

Microbes are living organisms and depend on us as applicators to exercise good storage practices before and after application. In general, cooler temperatures will favor survival of the living bacteria found in inoculants. Store the products and seed to which the products have been applied in cool, dry conditions and refer to product and seed labels for specific recommendations.

### Dedicated tank

Use a tank and pump system dedicated to liquid inoculants. This will allow for easy management of Novozymes BioAg™ products. While standard seed treatments are generally stable if left in a mix tank for a few days before consumed, this is not true for most inoculants. A dedicated tank will allow you to open and mix only what you need for immediate use, keeping your inoculant source as fresh and viable as possible. Even with a dedicated tank, you need to plan to apply all product within 24 hours after opening. If you don't have a dedicated tank, you may choose to mix your inoculants with seed treatment for soybean. If this is done, please be aware that this entire mixture needs to be applied to soybean seed within a four-hour window of application. Clean your inoculant tank weekly at a minimum to maintain good sanitation throughout the treating season.

### Water quality

Under some treating conditions, you may find it desirable to add a small amount of water to your seed treatment or your inoculant. You will need to use nonchlorinated water as chlorine added in to most public water supplies can harm the live rhizobia in the inoculant. You can install a water filter designed to remove chlorine or use a spare tank to hold water for 24 hours, allowing the chlorine to dissipate out of the water.

### Use the correct pump hose

Most sites use peristaltic pumps to meter inoculants. If the lower-use rate of 1.5 fluid ounces per 100 pounds of seed is difficult for your pump, try installing a smaller pump hose such as an LS2 4 size.

### Soybean oil

Many treating sites add a small amount of soybean oil to their seed treatment tank as a practice to reduce buildup in the equipment, enabling longer periods of treating. This practice does not harm the living organisms in the inoculant and may have a beneficial effect in that the oil dries more slowly than water.

## Soybean

	Active ingredients	Packaging	Application rates	Case treats
<b>TagTeam® LCO XC Inoculant</b>	10 billion (1 x 10 <sup>10</sup> ) viable cfu/ml <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i> 1 x 10 <sup>-7</sup> % lipo-chitooligosaccharides 720 million (7.2 x 10 <sup>8</sup> ) cfu/g <i>Penicillium bilaiae</i>	400 units 5 x 2 x 40 unit	1.5 fl oz/ 100 lbs 44.4 ml/ 45.4 kg	400 units or 56,000,000 seeds
<b>TagTeam® Soybean Granular Inoculant</b>	100 million (1 x 10 <sup>8</sup> ) viable cfu/g <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i> 100 thousand (1 x 10 <sup>5</sup> ) cfu/g <i>Penicillium bilaiae</i>	39.7 lbs (18 kg) 582.4 lbs (264 kg)	Varies by row spacing	Varies by row spacing
<b>Optimize® XC Inoculant</b>	10 billion (1 x 10 <sup>10</sup> ) viable cfu/g <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i> 1 x 10 <sup>-7</sup> % lipo-chitooligosaccharides	400 u nits 5 x 2 x 40 unit	1.5 fl oz/100 lbs (44.4 ml/45.4 kg)	400 units or 56,000,000 seeds
<b>Cell-Tech® Soybean Granular Inoculant</b>	100 million (1 x 10 <sup>8</sup> ) viable cfu/g <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i>	1,000 lbs (454 kg) 39.7 lbs (18 kg)	Varies by row spacing	Varies by row spacing
<b>Cell-Tech® Soybean Liquid Inoculant</b>	2 billion (2 x 10 <sup>9</sup> ) viable cfu/ml <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i>	4 x 50 unit	2.1 fl oz/unit (50 lbs) of seed (63 ml/23 kg)	200 units or 28,000,000 seeds

## Corn

	Active ingredients	Packaging	Application rates	Case treats
<b>QuickRoots® PB Corn Multi-Crop Inoculant</b>	210 million (2.1 x 10 <sup>8</sup> ) viable cfu/g <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> 50 million (5 x 10 <sup>7</sup> ) cfu/g <i>Trichoderma virens</i>	10 x 25 unit 200 units	16 g/80,000 seeds (unit)	250 units 200 units
<b>QuickRoots® WP Corn Multi-Crop Inoculant</b>	310 million (3.1 x 10 <sup>8</sup> ) viable cfu/g <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> 74 million (7.4 x 10 <sup>7</sup> ) cfu/g <i>Trichoderma virens</i>	10 x 25 unit 625 units 3,125 units	7.2 g/80,000 seeds (unit)	250 units 625 units 3,125 units

## Wheat

	Active ingredients	Packaging	Application rate	Case treats
<b>JumpStart® Wettable Powder Inoculant</b>	720 million ( $7.2 \times 10^8$ ) cfu/g <i>Penicillium bilaiae</i>	4 x 40 bu (2 oz/57 g) 280 bu (14 oz/400 g)	Varies	160 bu = 9,600 lbs of seed 280 bu = 16,800 lbs of seed
<b>QuickRoots® WP Small Grains Inoculant</b>	730 million ( $7.3 \times 10^8$ ) viable cfu/g <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> 22 million ( $2.2 \times 10^7$ ) cfu/g <i>Trichoderma virens</i>	10 x 100 bu 1,000 bu	3 g/45 kg (100 lbs) of seed	1,000 bu = 60,000 lbs of seed 2,500 bu = 150,000 lbs of seed

## Pulse

	Active ingredients	Packaging	Application rate	Case treats
<b>TagTeam® Pea and Lentil Peat Inocu- lant</b>	740 million ( $7.4 \times 10^8$ ) viable cfu/g <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> 3.7 million ( $3.7 \times 10^6$ ) cfu/g <i>Penicillium bilaiae</i>	7 x 4.8 lb bag	Pea – 3,000 lbs of seed (50 bu) Lentil – 1,800 lbs of seed (30 bu)	Pea – 21,000 lbs of seed Lentil – 12,600 lbs of seed
<b>TagTeam® Pea and Lentil Granular Inoculant</b>	130 million ( $1.3 \times 10^8$ ) viable cfu/g <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> 1.3 million ( $1.3 \times 10^6$ ) cfu/g <i>Penicillium bilaiae</i>	40 lb bag 584 lb tote	1 oz/1,000 ft of row 1 oz/1,000 ft of row	Varies
<b>TagTeam® LCO Pea and Lentil Liquid Inoculant</b>	2 billion ( $2 \times 10^9$ ) viable cfu/g <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> $1 \times 10^{-7}$ % lipo-chitooligosacchrides 720 million ( $7.2 \times 10^8$ ) cfu/g <i>Penicillium bilaiae</i>	4 x 40 bu	2.5 oz/bu 3.0 fl oz/bu	160 bu
<b>TagTeam® Chickpea Granular Inoculant</b>	100 million ( $1.0 \times 10^8$ ) viable cfu/g <i>Mesorhizobium ciceri</i> 1 million ( $1.0 \times 10^6$ ) cfu/g <i>Penicillium bilaiae</i>	40 lb bag	1.0oz/1,000 ft of row	Varies

## Peanuts

	Active ingredients	Packaging	Application rate	Case treats
<b>Optimize® for Peanuts</b>	2 billion ( $2 \times 10^9$ ) viable cfu/ml <i>Bradyrhizobium</i> sp. <i>Arachis</i> 1 x 10-7% lipo-chitooligosaccharides	4 x 1.1 gallon	1 oz/1000 ft of row	40 acres using 36 inch row spacing
<b>TagTeam® LCO for peanuts</b>	$7.2 \times 10^8$ cfu/g <i>Penicillium bilaiae</i> $2 \times 10^9$ viable cfu/ml <i>Bradyrhizobium</i> sp. <i>Arachis</i> 1 x 10-7% lipo-chitooligosaccharides	4 x 1.1 gallon (4.2L) of liquid inoculants	1 oz/1000 ft of row	40 acres using 36 inch row spacing
<b>Cell-Tech® for peanuts granular</b>	100 million ( $1 \times 10^8$ ) viable cfu/g <i>Bradyrhizobium</i> sp. <i>Arachis</i>	18kg (40 lb)	4.9 lb/acre using 40 inch row spacing	Varies
<b>Cell-Tech® for peanuts peat</b>	100 million ( $1 \times 10^8$ ) viable cfu/g <i>Bradyrhizobium</i> sp. <i>Arachis</i>	24x6.6 oz (187grams)	6.6 oz/100lbs seed	2400 lb seed
<b>JumpStart® for peanuts WP</b>	$7.2 \times 10^8$ cfu <i>Penicillium bilaiae</i> per gram	4 x 2.0 oz (57grams)	Varies	Varies





## Forage

	Active ingredients	Packaging	Application rate	Case treats	Product availability
<b>Nitragin® Gold Alfalfa and Sweet Clover Pre-Inoculant</b>	300 million (3 X 10 <sup>8</sup> ) viable cfu/g <i>Sinorhizobium meliloti</i>	42 lb (19 kg) box 1,600 lb tote (725.7 kg)	6.67 oz (189 g) per 50 lbs (22.7 kg) of seed 8.0 oz (226 g) per 60 lbs (27.1 kg) or a bushel of seed	5,000 lbs (2,270 kg) of seed 192,000 lbs (87,020 kg) of seed	Alfalfa and sweet clovers (white, yellow, hubam, madrid, bitter and sour clover)
<b>Nitragin® Gold Clover Pre-Inoculant</b>	80 million (8 x 10 <sup>7</sup> ) viable cfu/g <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i>	42 lb (19 kg) box	Red clover – 6.67 oz (189 g) per 50 lbs (22.7 kg) of seed White, ladino, alsike clover - 13.3 oz (378 g) per 50 lbs (22.7 kg) of seed	Red clover – 5,000 lbs (2,273 kg) of seed White, ladino, alsike clover – 2,500 lbs (1,136 kg) of seed	Ladino, alsike, red and white clovers
<b>Optimize® Gold Inoculant</b>	1 million (1 x 10 <sup>6</sup> ) viable cfu/ml <i>Sinorhizobium meliloti</i> 1 x 10 <sup>-7</sup> % lipochitooligosaccharides	38.3 lb (17.4 kg)	19.6 fl oz/100 lbs of seed (580 ml/45.4 kg)	3,000 lb (1,361 kg) of seed	Alfalfa





## Flooding effects on soil biodiversity

### What you'll learn

- Flooding in a field prior to planting may lead to “fallow syndrome” in the crop due to a decrease in soil microbial communities
- Utilizing an inoculant at planting may help increase the beneficial rhizobia populations in soybean fields
- Using an inoculant for corn may improve the availability of phosphorus

Fields that recently experienced flooding before planting may have reduced soil biological diversity. The decrease in soil microbial communities following flooding is due to the depletion of oxygen in the soil profile. Silt deposited by a flood may add to the problem by sealing the field and further preventing oxygen from entering the soil. Fallow syndrome is the nutrient deficiencies and reduced growth of a crop that result from the absence of sufficient populations of beneficial soil microbes and can dramatically affect crop production.

### Effects of flooding in soybean fields

Long periods of soil saturation and anaerobic conditions (three days or longer) decrease populations of the nitrogen-fixing rhizobial bacteria. Soybeans need rhizobia for optimal nitrogen fixation and without this beneficial bacteria, significant yield reductions can occur.<sup>1</sup>

When planting into a field that was previously flooded, the use of rhizobia inoculants may improve root development, nodulation, vigor and plant stand establishment, which can lead to faster canopy closure, better plant health, higher yields and a higher return on investment (ROI). In addition to these benefits, rhizobia inoculants provide the convenience of retail application and can be used in tandem with fungicidal and insecticidal seed inoculants.

TagTeam® LCO and Optimize® products combine nitrogen-fixing rhizobia with the LCO molecule — a combination that, based on a 2016 growth chamber study, can result in 2X as many nodules compared to rhizobia alone. Plus, the LCO enhances mycorrhizal colonization, which increases functional root volume and helps the plant uptake more water and nutrients through the roots.

### Effects of flooding in corn fields

Corn and small grains that have been planted into a field following flooding may show symptoms of phosphorous or zinc deficiency accompanied by slow, uneven early growth and stunting. These deficiencies are often due to a decrease in populations of vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, which act as an extension of corn roots. The LCO in BioRise™ Corn Offering\* enhances mycorrhizal colonization, which increases functional root volume and helps the plant absorb additional nutrients.

QuickRoots® Technology helps maximize corn yields — especially in fields with limitations in moisture or nutrient availability. The microbes in QuickRoots® Technology help increase the availability and uptake of phosphate, which increases root volume. With more root volume, the plant can access additional nutrients, including nitrogen and potassium, protecting it from stress.

Sources: <sup>1</sup>Staton, M. 2014. Identifying and responding to soybean inoculation failures. Michigan State University. <http://msue.anr.msu.edu>. Other sources: Ellis, J. R. 1998. Post flood syndrome and vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. J. Prod. Agric. 11:200-204. Monsanto BioAg™ 2016 Product Guide. Web source verified 2/29/16.

\*Class of 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 base genetics are treated with either BioRise™ 360 ST or BioRise™ 2 Corn Offering (the on-seed application of the separately registered products Novozymes® B-300 SAT and BioRise™ 360 ST).

## Chlorinated water and biological seed treatments

### What you'll learn

- Not all biological seed treatments are bio-enhancers
- Biological seed treatments — including some z bio-enhancers — often contain living organisms
- Municipal water supplies contain chlorine that can impact the effectiveness of bio-enhancers
- When preparing bio-enhancers for treatment, dechlorination systems are recommended for water sources that contain chlorine

### Bio-enhancers often contain living organisms

Biological seed treatments, many of which can be referred to as bio-enhancers, often contain living organisms such as bacteria and fungi; therefore, anything that can kill or injure these organisms can be detrimental to the effectiveness of these seed treatments.

### Chlorinated water

To keep water safe for human consumption, municipalities treat their water supply with variable levels of chlorine to kill bacteria and fungi that might be within pipes and water storage facilities. If chlorinated water is used while seeds are being treated with bioenhancers, it can have an adverse effect on the treatment's effectiveness. Therefore, the recommendation is to avoid using water directly from a municipal supply line in the preparation of bio-enhancers. The best water source is from a nonchlorinated source.

### Recommendations if chlorinated water is the only source

- Install a chlorine filter in the water line to remove chlorine. In general, these filters are comprised of activated carbon
- Allow chlorine to dissipate by leaving in an open container for six to 24 hours
- Use dechlorination tablets
- These practices can help bio-enhancers deliver the full benefits to a crop

## Factors influencing soybean nodulation

### What you'll learn

- Many factors, both environmental and man-made, can affect the level of rhizobial nodulation on soybeans
- Nodulation is a natural process that is initiated by the plant through a complex signaling relationship with rhizobia
- Because it is a natural process, the signaling events between the soybean plant and the rhizobia can become disrupted by several factors

### Background

Nodulation generally begins about three to four weeks after emergence once the plant senses a need for nitrogen. The following factors can have a dramatic effect on the intensity, timing and efficiency of nodule development and nitrogen fixation. Taken alone, any one of the following factors can affect nodulation; however, it is common to find more than one factor influencing the extent of nodule formation on soybeans.

### Soil chemistry and nutrients

- As soil pH drops below 6, the conditions can become too acidic for rhizobia to effectively create nod factor and form nodules.<sup>1</sup> Rhizobia survival can also be affected. Important micronutrients, including molybdenum, that are cofactors for nitrogen fixation may become unavailable under low pH conditions.
- Salt content in soil could be naturally occurring or due to irrigation. Introduction of salt can adversely affect nodulation even in concentrations low enough to allow for rhizobial survival and root colonization.
- As carryover nitrogen levels in the soil rise above 40 lbs/acre, nodule formation is negatively affected.<sup>2</sup> If plants have a source of nitrogen readily available, there is no incentive to signal to rhizobia to form nodules and thus the rhizobia do not create nod factor. Once this carryover nitrogen is used up, the plant then may signal to the rhizobia, but the whole nodulation process then becomes delayed or the signaling window can be missed, resulting in little to no nodulation on the soybean plants.

### Cultural and physical

- Fields that have never been planted with soybeans have little to no rhizobia present, making natural inoculation/nodulation difficult. In general, the more times a field has been planted with soybeans with successful inoculation/nodulation, the higher the level of indigenous rhizobia. However, naturalized rhizobia may become less infective and/or effective over time and thus a supply of elite rhizobia, selected and fermented for these critical attributes, are needed to ensure effective nodulation.
- Natural differences in soybean products can also affect the intensity of nodulation because soybean plants control the symbiotic nitrogen fixation process, and some soybean products perform this task more efficiently than others. In the absence of supplemental inoculation, there can be vast differences in presence of nodules between two given soybean products. These differences can be lessened by introducing elite strains of rhizobia into the environment to counter those variances.
- Combining LCO with rhizobia increases the rate of early soybean nodulation, resulting in 2X as many nodules compared to rhizobia alone.<sup>3</sup> Both TagTeam® LCO XC and Optimize® XC technologies offer this effective combination.
- Soil texture/organic matter can affect rhizobia populations. In general, the coarser the soil the less rhizobia can survive year to year, negatively affecting rhizobia populations and inoculation/nodulation. Sandy soils can also get extremely dry and hot, which cause the rhizobia populations to desiccate and decrease rapidly.
- No-till conditions can create colder, wetter conditions early in the season, which can increase the stress levels of the plant, negatively affecting the signaling process between the plant and the rhizobia. These same conditions also can decrease the activity of the rhizobia, thus delaying nodulation.

### Temperature and precipitation

- The northern range of soybean-growing areas experience more extreme seasonal temperature fluctuations from colder winters to hot and dry summers, making it less likely that rhizobia can survive from year to year. The southern range of soybean-growing areas also can experience extremely high temperatures and dry conditions. In addition to creating plant stress, soil moisture can affect rhizobia survival. Hot, dry conditions can cause rhizobia desiccation and death, while flooding can create anaerobic conditions which cause rhizobial death due to low oxygen conditions.
- In addition to creating plant stress, temperature extremes can have an effect on the efficacy of soil rhizobia. In temperatures below 50°F (10°C), rhizobia become mostly inactive and the nodulation signaling process can be interrupted.<sup>4</sup> In high temperatures above 90°F (32°C), especially when combined with dry conditions, rhizobial desiccation and death can occur.<sup>5</sup>

### Biology

- Often times, indigenous or native rhizobia will compete with the elite strains in an inoculant to occupy the infection sites on the soybean root. These native rhizobia may then infect and form nodules, but fix little to no nitrogen, making them parasitic to the soybean plants. The combination of LCO and rhizobia, delivered at the same time, which can be found in TagTeam® LCO XC and Optimize® technologies, can improve early nodulation by up to 2X.
- Any practice that stresses the plant (disease, herbicide injury, nutrient deficiency/poor fertility, compaction, cold early season temperatures) reduces the ability of the plant to signal the rhizobia regarding its need for nitrogen, thus delaying nodulation.
- Compounds applied to the seed and the soil such as incompatible pesticides, fertilizers and nutrients can cause rhizobial death. Care should be used with compounds such as talc (when applied during treating causes rapid rhizobial desiccation) or molybdenum (high toxicity) which can be incompatible with rhizobia. Always refer to published compatibility charts before using any unknown materials with rhizobia inoculants.

### Novozymes BioAg™ products can help

The Novozymes BioAg™ line of single-, dual- and triple-action inoculants help enhance the nodulation process. These products make the crucial pieces of the nodulation process available even in cases of environmental stress when they cannot be produced naturally. The unique properties available in products such as TagTeam® LCO, Optimize® XC and Cell-Tech® technologies can help soybean plants mitigate many of the stress factors they face.

The nodulation factors delivered in products like TagTeam® LCO and Optimize® support the nodulation process, overcoming stresses (e.g., low pH conditions, cold, tillage) to support productive nodulation. In cases of flooding and soil toxicity (e.g., salt and pesticide carryover), the supply of healthy rhizobia in these products or our singleaction inoculant Cell-Tech® products support quick and effective nodulation. In conclusion, by using products from Novozymes BioAg™, you can maximize opportunities for successful initiation of nitrogen-fixing nodules.

Sources: <sup>1</sup> Pedersen, P. 2015. When do we need to inoculate our soybean seeds? Integrated Crop Management. Iowa State University. Paper 1559. <sup>2</sup> Staton, M. 2014. Identifying and responding to soybean inoculation failures. Michigan State University. <sup>3</sup> Based on a 2016 growth chamber trial. <sup>4</sup> Bohner, H. 2014. Cold temperatures hamper soybean nodulation. Crop Talk. OMAFRA. <sup>5</sup> Yadav, A.S. and Nehra, K. 2013. Selection/isolation of high temperature tolerant strains of Rhizobium for management of high temperature stress on Rhizobium — legume symbiosis. International Journal of Microbial Resource Technology. Vol. 2:47-57.



# Identifying inoculant contamination

## What you'll learn

- Pelleting is a normal occurrence in inoculants
- Contamination, although rare, may happen and cause the inoculant to be ineffective
- Contaminated bladders should not be used

## Normal pelleting vs. contamination

Pelleting is a normal occurrence and can be more pronounced in concentrated products such as Optimize® XC and Tag Team® LCO XC technologies. Pelleting is the result of bacterial cells, insoluble fermentation ingredients and/or other contributing factors settling out of the solution into masses that can be seen in the bladder lying on the film. Pelleting should not be a reason for concern and the pellets should resuspend back into the solution with very little effort. Following package directions and gently shaking the bladder should be enough to achieve suspension.

Even with adhering to the highest operational procedures, contamination may occasionally occur. Contamination may happen in different ways. One example is microscopic holes that may be created at pinch points of the bladder during filling. These holes allow for contaminants to enter the nutrient-rich medium.

Odor and visual cues are two ways to identify a contaminated bladder. A distinct odor is often the first thing noticed. A contaminated inoculant will have a very off smell, it can be rank, smell like ammonia or be very sharp.

Some masses in a contaminated bladder, unlike pelleting, will not easily go back into suspension. The masses may look like sheets or bits of tissue floating in the bladder. If a fungal contamination is to blame, the problem may be more noticeable with large masses of semisolids being present in the bladder.

## What to do if you suspect contamination

If contamination is suspected, you should contact the distributor through which you purchased the product. Your distributor will be the most efficient source for replacement product to minimize treatment interruptions. The distributor will work directly with Novozymes® BioAg™.

## Summary

Pelleting is a normal occurrence in inoculants but floating masses or masses stuck to the bladder film are not. If after following label directions and resuspension methods you are still unsure if contamination may have occurred, refrain from using the product. Contaminants may render the product ineffective and they can block screens in treaters. Upon opening the bladder, if inoculant emits an off smell or rank odor, contamination may have occurred. Contaminated products should not be used. Reach out to your distributor if you believe you have a contaminated product.







To learn more visit us at [novozymes.com/bioag](https://www.novozymes.com/bioag) or call your local retailer.

#### About Novozymes

Novozymes is the world leader in biological solutions. Together with customers, partners and the global community, we improve industrial performance while preserving the planet's resources and helping to build better lives. As the world's largest provider of enzyme and microbial technologies, our bioinnovation enables higher agricultural yields, low-temperature washing, energy-efficient production, renewable fuel and many other benefits that we rely on today and in the future. We call it Rethink Tomorrow.

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