



# Green Polymer Seed Coating Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why is Nuseed sunflower seed now green?**

On a portion of the seed available for 2019 planting, Nuseed has progressed to a new polymer seed coating which is most clearly indicated by a new green seed colorant.

## **Are the polymer and colorant changing for all Nuseed sunflower seed?**

Only a portion of Nuseed sunflower seed will have the new polymer and green colorant in 2019. We want to ensure the transition is at the right pace to provide only positive impact on our customers. We expect to complete the transition of this seed technology advancement for our entire sunflower seed portfolio for the 2020 season.

## **What is a polymer?**

More and more, seed is used as part of the delivery mechanism for active ingredients that help protect young plants from seed and soil-borne disease, insect and fungal pressures. As more inputs are added to the seed, an inert seed coating or polymer outer shell is used to help these seed enhancements stay on the seed. A polymer is a binding component that basically acts as a thin coating on the seed. This applied technology helps protect the seed treatment investment while also enabling increased flowability and plantability of the seed to achieve consistent seed drop.

## **What is a seed colorant?**

A seed colorant consists only of inert ingredients intended to impart an unnatural color to the seed. The use of seed colorants was originally mandated by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to ensure that seed treated with pesticide products was clearly identified in the marketplace. To date, Nuseed sunflower seed has been blue. We are now excited to introduce a green colorant.

## **Why did Nuseed change the colorant and polymer on its sunflower seed?**

Nuseed is committed to being the leading provider of high-performing sunflower seed in North America. As such, we are constantly evaluating and improving all aspects of our program including research and development goals, our current hybrid portfolio and quality assurance. Nuseed wants to ensure that we offer our customers the best in available seed technology, including the polymer we use. We expect this new seed coating to provide growers with improved flowability, decreased bridging and increased singularity at planting. The change of colorant from blue to green is to help identify the uniqueness of our seed and our brand.

## **Did Nuseed make any changes to the crop protectant?**

Nuseed sunflowers continue to be available with leading sunflower seed treatment products to protect against seed and soil-borne diseases, fungus and insects. Nuseed has recently added Plenaris® to our list of seed treatment options, delivering the most sustainable, best-performing downy mildew management program in the sunflower industry. The seed protectant package is clearly indicated on each bag of Nuseed sunflower seed via the industry standard seed bag tag.

## **How will I know if I received Nuseed sunflower seed with the new polymer?**

Only the limited quantity of Nuseed sunflower seed that receives the new polymer will be green instead of the traditional blue. We made this decision to ensure an easily visible difference to our seed and minimize confusion during this transition year.

All pallets of sunflowers seed with the new polymer and green colorant will be clearly identified using a unique pallet placard card.

Each bag of sunflower seed with the new polymer and green colorant will be clearly identified using an additional seed bag tag.

## **Will these changes impact germination of the sunflower seed?**

No, both the manufacturers of these seed technologies and Nuseed have done extensive, multi-year research and testing of the materials selected including germination.

## **Does the colorant or polymer affect the seed handling safety?**

Neither colorants nor polymers contain any active ingredients. Seed handling safety is most impacted by the seed treatment applied for both insect and disease protection of the seed. Please refer to the label and MSDS of the applied seed treatment for all safety information.

## **Do I need to do anything different?**

A change in polymer or seed colorant does not require any change in handling or agronomic practices for the grower. Nuseed recommends safe seed handling and the proper setting of planting equipment. These recommendations do not change.

## **If I have questions during planting who do I contact?**

As with all sunflower planting, proper planter settings and testing are paramount. Visit [nuseed.com](http://nuseed.com) for resource information regarding planter settings, seeding rates and best practices. Refer to your planter manufacturer guide for specific information on your equipment settings.

For any concerns related to seed quality or performance, please contact Nuseed's technical agronomist, Alison Pokrzywinski at (701) 630-8122.

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