10 Dos and Don’ts when inoculating legumes

DO

1. **DO** take into account paddock history (legume and inoculation history) and soil pH, especially for very acidic soils ($\text{pH}_{\text{CaCl}_2}$ less than 5.5), when deciding whether to inoculate: consult the guide book (see below) for recommendations for the different legumes.
2. **DO** use the correct inoculant group for the legume.
3. **DO** take care when inoculating pickled seed: not all combinations of pickle and inoculant are regarded as compatible (see the guide book for compatibility and timings).
4. **DO** consider using double rate inoculant if the inoculant group for that legume hasn’t been used in that paddock before (especially for chickpea or when sowing dry).
5. **DO** use clean equipment and containers or tanks, ensuring there are no chemical residues when preparing, mixing and delivering inoculant.

DON’T

1. **DON’T** use saline bore water or chlorinated tap water when preparing and applying peat slurry or freeze-dried inoculants. Instead, use good quality rain water or non-saline bore water.
2. **DON’T** mix liquid inoculant with trace elements (they can be very toxic to rhizobia).
3. **DON’T** wait too long before sowing inoculated seed. Sow within 24 hours, or sooner if coating inoculant on to seed over some types of pickle (see the guide book).
4. **DON’T** leave inoculant (bags or packets of product, inoculated seed, liquid for furrow application or granules) in high temperatures, more than 30°C.
5. **DON’T** mix inoculant directly with acidic fertilizers or organic fertilizers.

Finally, **do consult the GRDC guide book** for up-to-date information


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