

## 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

[http://www.agwine.adelaide.edu.au/research/farming/legumes-nitrogen/legume-inoculation/grdc\\_booklet\\_inoculating\\_legumes.pdf](http://www.agwine.adelaide.edu.au/research/farming/legumes-nitrogen/legume-inoculation/grdc_booklet_inoculating_legumes.pdf)

M Ryder, M Denton

April 2016

