

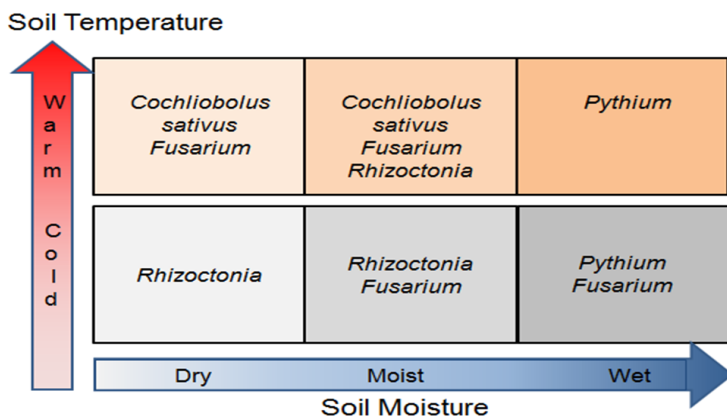


**Should I still use a cereal seed treatment on later seeded crops since the soil has warmed up and seedling diseases become less of a risk?** **Dennis from Melfort, Saskatchewan**

Fungal pathogens in the soil can attack cereal seedlings under a range of conditions but their survival and ability to thrive is dependent upon the soil moisture and soil temperature. In cold, dry soils, the pathogen **Rhizoctonia** is more likely to attack cereal seedlings. In cold but moist soils, both **Rhizoctonia** and **Fusarium** are the major pathogens while in cold, wet soils, **Pythium** and **Fusarium** are the most prevalent pathogens.

Cereal seedling diseases remain a concern even as the soils begins to warm; however the prevalent pathogen will depend on the soil moisture. Figure 1 demonstrates how **Cochliobolus sativus**, (common root rot) and **Fusarium** are the most prevalent seedling diseases in warm dry soils. If warm soils are wet or near field capacity, **Pythium** becomes the most dominant disease to can attack your cereal crop.

The use of a cereal seed treatment offers disease protection despite fluctuations in the soil temperature or soil moisture. Conditions change over the seeding season and if you think of soil conditions as “The Weather of Soil” your cereal seed treatment always gives you that peace of mind that your crop is off to the critical first step in producing a robust, healthy growing crop and getting that great start.



**Figure 1.** Shows the prevalent soil pathogens depending on soil moisture and soil temperature.