

# OPTIMISE YOUR NUSEED CANOLA SEED STORAGE

**Research has found that the shelf life of any seed is dependent on the seed's moisture content, as well as the temperature and humidity of the storage environment.**

To ensure that your seed maintains its quality, it is recommended that you store your canola in an area that minimises exposure to humidity and extreme temperature fluctuations. At Nuseed we encourage you to follow these practices when storing your seed.

- Store your seed bags in an area where they will be dry, undercover, and have natural ventilation.
- Keep your seed bags away from direct sunlight.
- Avoid storing seeds in cool rooms unless you can control humidity to 30%, which requires a dehumidifier. Most cool rooms operate at 70% humidity or higher, causing seeds to absorb moisture and deteriorate in viability more rapidly.
- Ensure your seed is kept away from extreme heat sources or hot building walls. Storing it on the south side of a building is strongly encouraged.
- The storage area should be in clean and hygienic conditions.
- Use an area that is pest and insect free or use suitable baiting.
- Store your seed bags off the ground's surface, for example, on pallets or pallet racking.
- Store away from moisture or wet areas.
- Replace or repair any seed packaging that becomes damaged.
- If seed bags become damaged during handling and seed is spilt, please follow the directions on the bag for the safe handling of treated seed.
- Store seed away from chemicals, especially herbicides.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. Can I store my seed at the very top of my pallet racking?

Placing seed at the top of the pallet racking, closer to the roof, exposes your seed to extreme temperature fluctuations. It is recommended to store it midway up the pallet racking—not on the ground and not at the top.

### Q. Where is the best place in my shed to store seed?

The best location for storage should be on the southern side of the shed, in a controlled storage facility such as a shipping container, or on pallet racking. This helps lower the likelihood of extreme temperature fluctuations.

### Q. Which storage option would you recommend for storing the seed: a cool room, shipping container, or pallet racking? Please explain your preference and reasons why.

There is no requirement for cool room storage. Safe storage options include pallet racking on the southern side of the shed or a shipping container also positioned on the southern side of the shed, ensuring good ventilation, stable temperature, and no moisture affecting the seed. This will help ensure the seed holds and maintains its quality.

### Ranked Storage Preferences

1. A shipping container inside the southern side of the shed—ensure good ventilation; avoid placing shipping containers in the open.
2. Pallet racking on the southern side of the shed with seeds stored in the middle of the pallet racking.
3. A cool room is not necessary. If using a cool room that is not turned on, ensure good ventilation to maintain stable temperatures and minimise external factors.

### Q. What are the risks when using a cool room facility?

Without humidity control (dehumidifier), cool rooms can operate above 70% humidity and higher. This high humidity is detrimental to the longevity of germination and vigour. The risk of failure is high with this system.

### Q. Could I use a reverse cycle air conditioner to stabilise temperature in a shipping container/cool room?

If using a split system that can dehumidify the air and lower relative humidity, this can be utilised. It is advisable to install a humidity and temperature control alarm system to alert you in the unlikely event that the split system malfunctions and causes an increase in humidity.

### Q. What is the concern with high humidity?

When seed is exposed to high humidity for extended periods (weeks), it will slowly absorb moisture from the air, increasing seed moisture content. For example, seeds could move from 7% to 8% moisture content. According to Harrington's Rule of Thumb, a 1% increase in seed moisture content would halve the seed storage life.

### Q. Would you recommend emptying my bags into a seal-proof seed container?

This is not necessarily required; with good storage facilities and minimal pests, your seed should store well. However, if you have high rodent and pest pressure, seal-proof containers would be suitable. Ensure that the containers do not have any residues that could deteriorate the seed quality. If unsure, please discuss with your local agronomist.

### Q. How long can I safely store seed, given safe storage conditions that minimises humidity and high temperatures?

It is recommended to use your seed as soon as possible to minimise the effects that humidity and temperature could have on the seed. Always retest your seed for germination, prior to use if it has been stored from one season to the next.

### Q. Can I store my seed in the same shed as chemicals?

Yes, you could, but be very careful about where and what you are storing the seed next to. Keep the seed away from herbicides that could damage it, as well as away from liquids and potential chemical spills. If unsure, discuss safe storage practices with your local agronomist.

### Q. If I store my seed well, should I get my seed tested for germination?

Yes, it is always best to retest seed that is carried over to have the best knowledge of its germination rate. What may seem like appropriate storage sometimes could be less than ideal due to external factors.

### Q. What time of the year should I get my seed retested?

It would be recommended to get your seed retested in November or December to allow the lab appropriate time to return results to you.

**Nuseed goes to great lengths to ensure that the seed we supply to you is of high performance and quality. Please do your part regarding handling and storage to maintain the seed viability.**

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