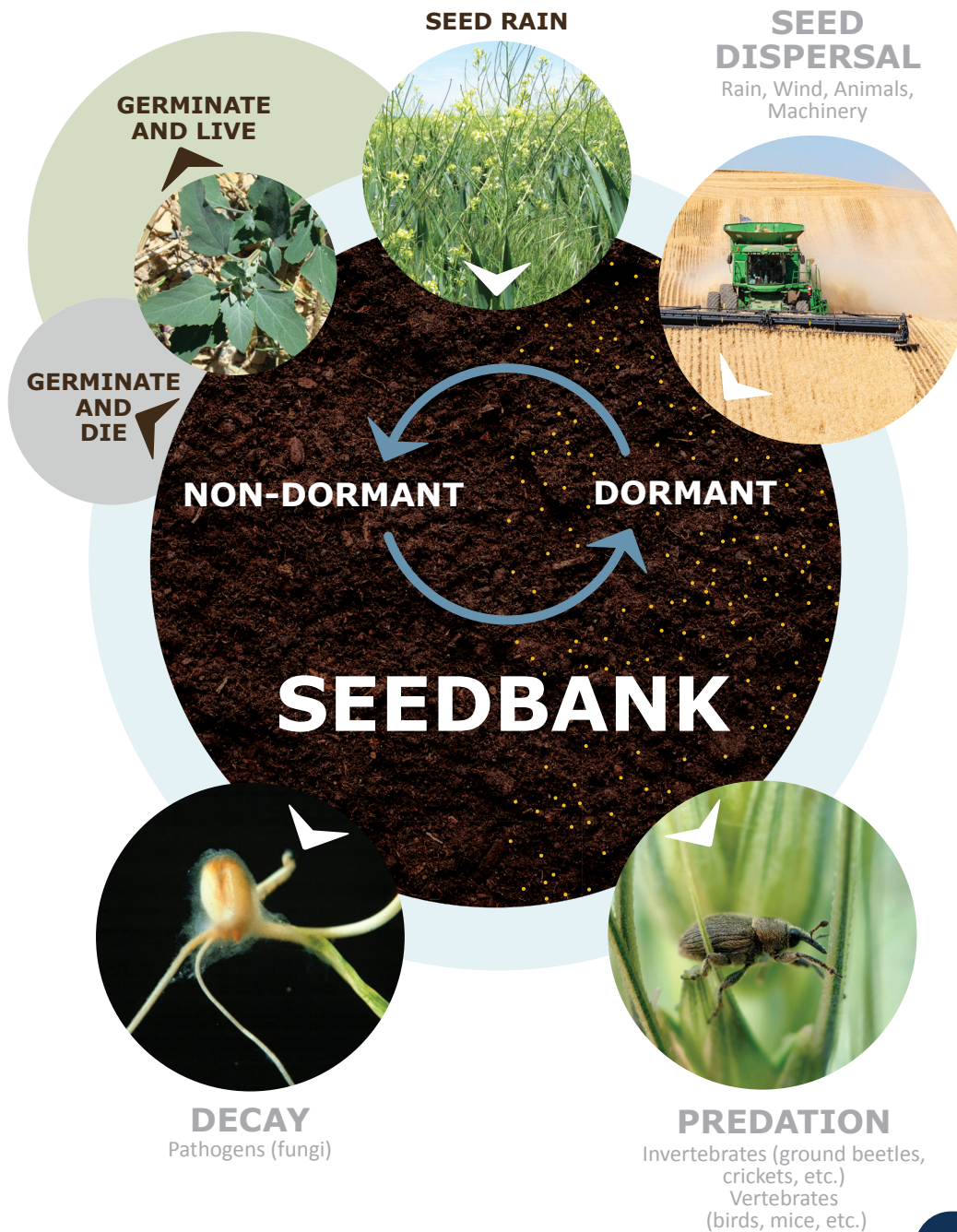


# THE SEEDBANK CYCLE



## 5 things you should know!

- Newly produced weed seed are or can become dormant. Some weeds set both dormant and non-dormant seed at the same time.

**Practical outcomes:** Dormant seed, when presented with ideal conditions, do not germinate.
- The three main types of dormancy are physiological, physical, and developmental - some weeds have all three.

**Practical outcomes:** An array of farm practices can influence which weed species or weed seed germinate, and the reason is not always apparent.
- Managing the weed seedbank requires knowledge of dormancy, predation, and impact of soil disturbance.

**Practical outcomes:** The seedbank is highly influenced by tillage system, and tilled and no-till systems tend to have different spectrums of weeds. Periodic tillage (once every 3-5 years) can impact the weed seedbank composition.
- The magnitude of the seedbank is often enormous - densities can approach several hundred thousand per square yard.

**Practical outcomes:** It can take years of zero tolerance for weed seed set for farmers to see a noticeable reduction in weed seed germination from a particular area.
- A single failure to manage a weed can result in a complete restoration of the seedbank.

**Practical outcomes:** Weeds are so prolific that they can easily produce enough seed in a single season to erase decades of progress.

