

Becker Underwood's MicroBio unveils mole cricket bio-pesticide

AMES, Iowa — MicroBio, a subsidiary of Becker Underwood Inc., has introduced Nematac S, a bio-pesticide that uses a natural enemy instead of chemicals to control mole crickets.

"Nematac S is a nematode-based bio-pesticide formulated in a water dispersed carrier that is applied as a high volume spray," said Graeme Gowling, general manager of MicroBio's nematode business unit.

"It is based on a specific beneficial nematode called *Steinernema scapterisci* that was identified as a pathogenic parasite by the University of Florida."

Exclusively licensed by U.K.-based MicroBio, the beneficial nematodes in Nematac S become active when applied to a soil profile and use mole crickets as hosts. The microscopic nematodes enter inside the mole crickets and release bac-

teria, which is lethal to the pest. The mole cricket becomes a food source for the nematodes, which will reproduce and continue to attack the mole crickets infesting the turf.

"The nematodes in Nematac S attack only insects so they will have no ill effects on plants," Gowling said. "There has been considerable data generated in tests showing that these nematodes have been highly effective in controlling the mole crickets."

Nematac S will be the only non-restrict-



tive use, biologically based product to control mole crickets.

"The nematodes reproduce themselves in the mole crickets so you get persistent control," he said. "The recycling process gives you a protection time of six to eight weeks which

provides sufficient time to break the life cycle of the pest. Some chemical products will initially knock down the mole cricket population but then you have to reapply the product on a regular basis to protect against re-infestation."

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3 Number of holes:

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Medallion now labeled for use on snow mold

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Syngenta Professional Products has received a new label from the Environmental Protection Agency for its Medallion fungicide. Medallion (fludioxonil) is now labeled for control of pink snow mold and gray snow mold in the turf market.

"When applied at a rate of 0.5 ounces per 1,000 square feet in the fall before snow cover, Medallion gives turf managers protection against snow mold," said Dr. Mike Agnew, Syngenta field technical manager for turf.

Although Medallion is a contact fungicide, research in the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast and the Rocky Mountains shows that it actually controls the disease in the thatch and near the surface of the soil, delivering preventive disease control.

Medallion can also be tank-mixed with Banner MAXX. "The Medallion/Banner MAXX combination offers a broader spectrum and higher level of control for a longer period of time," said Agnew. "This is especially true for snow mold and summer patch."

The fungicide also offers control of leaf spot, dead spot of bentgrass, brown patch, and yellow patch.

Standard Golf raises \$9,107 for disaster fund

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — To show its support of those affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Standard Golf Co. has raised \$9,107 for the Salvation Army Disaster Fund. The donation is comprised of profits made from the sale of its United States Golf Flags and red, white and blue Royaline flagsticks.

"The sale of our flags and flagsticks have not only helped raise money for a good cause, but enabled golf courses all over America to show patriotism and support for their nation," said Peter Voorhees, president and CEO.

Profits made from Sept. 11 to the Thanksgiving weekend were donated.

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