



Bayer requests voluntary cancellation of Nematicur

Bayer has submitted a request to the U.S. EPA to voluntarily cancel all uses of fenamiphos, which will probably be phased out over the next three to five years. Fenamiphos is the active ingredient in several versions of Nematicur nematocide.

The company's request said that "the escalating costs of defending fenamiphos relative to its limited use," had prompted the decision to request the voluntary cancellation.

Although the final details of the cancellation are being worked out, the three-year phase out would apply to extremely vulnerable soils. These are defined as "hydrologic soil group A soils that are excessively drained and predominantly sand or sandy loam such as soils in suborder psamments." The five-year phase out would apply to other soils.

During the phase out, Bayer intends to continue to manufacture and distribute fenamiphos. Its request to the EPA specifies that dealer sales and customer use of the product would be permitted for as long as the products remain in the channels of trade. "The outcome of this process, which is going to result in Nematicur staying on the market for another three to five years, is a positive one," said Mike Daly, brand manager turf and ornamental. "The involvement the Florida superintendents allowed the EPA to make a more informed decision about Nematicur as a tool for the control of nematodes in turf. If it weren't for their involvement the product would have probably disappeared from the market several years ago."

As part of the process, Bayer has pledged to fund research at the University of Florida to look for alternative ways to control nematodes that golf course superintendents can use after the Nematicur is no longer available. /

Quick Quote

"The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it."

— John Ruskin —

Tips from the USGA: Slow Start for Bermudagrass and Early-Season Salinity Problems

By Pat Gross, USGA Green Section - Southwest Region

Visits to courses throughout the Southwest indicate a very slow start for bermudagrass growth in 2002.

Overall, it has been a very cool, dry spring and bermudagrass is not responding as in previous years. The extended dormancy has perpetuated the undesirable thin lies on fairways and lumpy conditions in the rough where patches of volunteer cool season grasses persist. Normally, bermudagrass green-up occurs in early to mid March with active growth by April. This year, night time temperatures throughout Southern California have remained in the low 40°F range throughout March and April, and there has been very little rain to help warm the soil. As a reference, bermudagrass begins to break dormancy as soil temperatures approach 60°F. Active growth occurs when night time temperatures are consistently above 60°F with day time soil and air temperatures in the range of 90°F. Growth of the improved varieties of hybrid bermudagrass appears to be two to three weeks ahead of common bermudagrass.

It is important for golfers and club

officials to understand that this situation is all temperature related. There is very little the superintendent can do to change the weather. Routine maintenance practices such as core aeration and irrigation can help to warm the soil, but bermudagrass will not show active growth until the temperatures are right.

Early season salinity problems
The lack of rainfall this winter has contributed to higher soil salinity levels early in the year. Southern California is 9" below normal rainfall estimates, causing superintendents to schedule deep irrigation on fairways and leaching of greens to stay ahead of problems. For courses with *Poa annua* greens and a history of salinity problems, it is important to monitor the EC on a weekly schedule using a portable EC meter that can be used in the field. Readings of 2.7 dS/cm signal the need for deep irrigation cycles to move salts away from sensitive turf roots. You may also wish to consider adding a leaching fraction of 15% to 20% to normal irrigation applications to compensate for the elevated salinity. /



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