Roundup® points the way to savings—both in money and manpower.

When you treat an area with Roundup® herbicide, it takes less time than hand weeding or string trimming it. You also get complete control—not just burndown. Add in its low price and Roundup gives you a big hand in making the most of your money.


New techniques in nematode production have brought down the costs to be more in line with other control agents. “They’re able to produce trillions of nematodes a day rather than billions of nematodes a day,” he explains, adding that the cost to apply one billion nematodes per acre—the recommended rate—is about $70.

Nematodes are also becoming available for use on warm season grasses. “There’s several nematode types that are being developed for Southern lawns,” he reports. Nematodes are especially effective in controlling fleas and mole crickets. “Mole crickets sort of take over the grubs (as a main pest) in Southern lawns,” Shetlar says.

It is especially important to discover that nematodes are indeed selective when it comes to which organisms are targeted. “In the lab, nematodes kill any insect they can get into. In the field, there was concern that they would be no different than an insecticide that kills everything. Thankfully, that’s not the case. People who are looking for a selective, non-chemical treatment can use these nematodes,” Shetlar says.

Entomopathogenic nematodes kill insects not as parasites, but as agents of disease. A nematode larva enters the insect just as a parasite does. But rather than feeding directly on the insect, it regurgi-
Nematodes run out of steam pretty quickly. At two weeks after the initial treatment, two-thirds of the “guinea pig” waxworm larvae were infected; at seven weeks, fewer than one-third were infected. “This result means it’s important to apply the nematodes when the billbug larvae are feeding in the soil near the turf crowns, usually in mid-June,” Shetlar says.

Most importantly, nematodes appear ineffective against beneficial garden predators and decomposers. Study results show no significant differences between treated and untreated turf in numbers of earthworms, mites, spiders centipedes, millipedes and beetles.

Within a month after the nematode application, populations of non-target organisms were pretty well normal,” Shetlar reports.

“介名词对非目标昆虫，我们最关心的是地面甲虫和蜘蛛甲虫，” Shetlar notes. “They're probably the No. 1 predator of cutworm eggs and sod webworm eggs. According to our results, entomopathogenic nematodes should not harm these populations.”

Shetlar says that nematodes can present a convenient, economical and environmentally friendly method of turf pest control. For best results, a mid-June application (in Ohio, local weather conditions may vary) is advised. “The best results occur when the lawn is moist from recent rains or just after a watering,” Shetlar points out.

“I also recommend a generous watering immediately after applying the nematodes.”

—the author is a freelance writer based in Cleveland, Ohio.