

For golf course superintendents, mole crickets come with the territory. It's not so much a question of whether the insects will be a problem, but rather a question of how best to control them.

These days, more and more superintendents are finding their product of choice to be CRUSADE® 5G Granular Insecticide. Manufactured by ICI Professional Products and distributed by LESCO, Inc., CRUSADE is now approved for non-restricted use on golf courses.

Superintendents Launch

CRUSADE® To Control Mole Crickets

With the active ingredient fonofos, CRUSADE offers excellent control of both the nymph and early adult stages of the mole cricket for four to six weeks or more. Its residual makes this new weapon in the arsenal of mole cricket insecticides the most cost-effective control on the market today.

At Quail Creek Country Club, a private 36-hole facility in Naples, Florida, Superintendent Steve Durand applied CRUSADE twice in 1991. He put the first application on the greens, tees, and fairways of nine holes during the third week of June. In late September, based on the success of the earlier treatment, he applied the product to all 36 holes. "The results in June were excellent and the residual was outstanding,"

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Durand said. "With other products, the residual doesn't seem to be as strong. From the results of the first application, I wasn't hesitant to buy a second time. The decision was easy."

CRUSADE is an organo-phosphorus soil insecticide that can be applied to warm or cool season grasses on all turf areas of the golf course. It is also registered for use on commercial sod farms. Applied at the relatively low rate of 80 pounds per acre for mole cricket control, its convenient granular formulation simplifies treatment and is especially beneficial when making partial applications or working in isolated areas.

In extensive testing by university entomologists for more than 15 years, fonofos has repeatedly demonstrated superior control of all economically important turf-grass insects including white



grubs, chinch bugs, sod webworms, and cutworms, as well as mole crickets.

In 1991 tests in Georgia, CRUSADE demonstrated a statistically significant reduction in mole cricket damage by the second week following application. In tests in Florida in 1988–1989, CRUSADE exhibited mole cricket control equal to or greater than six other products.

Application timing is critical with any insecticide. With CRUSADE, timing is especially important because of the product's ability to control both the adult and nymph mole cricket populations. Other products are not as effective against the adults.

Adult mole crickets mate and lay eggs and fly away to die. Nymphs hatch in two to three weeks. With knowledge of what stage of the life cycle the insects are in and proper application timing, the

applicator can apply to control both the adults as they go down into the soil to lay eggs and the nymphs as they hatch and emerge from the soil.

In Largo, Florida, at the Bardmoor North Golf Club, Superintendent Steve Hritsko, who has recently moved to the World Woods Golf Resort in Homosassa, applied CRUSADE in April of 1991 to all fairways and tee and green slopes on the 18-hole course. He reapplied in September.

"With two applications of CRUSADE, I had better results than any other product would provide," Hritsko said. "I did, however, begin to see some activity that had to be addressed around the middle to the end of August. For 1992, I've budgeted three applications of CRUSADE—one in March, another in June and a third in September."

Once CRUSADE is applied and irrigated, the

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active ingredient releases from its carrier and attaches to the soil. The product resists leaching and its performance is not affected by enhanced microbial degradation.

According to Bob Yarborough, Vice President for Control Products at LESCO, the longevity of CRUSADE in the soil makes it a welcome addition to the arsenal of mole cricket insecticides.

"What makes CRUSADE unique is that it doesn't have the microbial degradation of other soil-active insecticides," Yarborough commented. "That gives it the residual necessary to provide prolonged control of both the adult and the nymph populations. Other products may need to be applied as many as five times a year, but, with CRUSADE, two applications will generally do the trick."

After years of research and refinement, ICI Professional Products is pleased to provide golf course superintendents with this exciting insecticide. CRUSADE is a convenient, easy-to-use granular formulation that demonstrates superior efficacy against mole crickets and other turf-damaging insects. It can be used from tee to green on both warm and cool season grasses and is nonphytotoxic, with performance unaffected by enhanced microbial degradation.

CRUSADE can't promise to end the war against mole crickets on golf courses. But it is guaranteed to make each battle a whole lot easier to win.

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