



Whether it is biological or chemical, the key to effective pest control is timing. The best control is achieved when the eggs have just hatched and the mole crickets are most vulnerable. Larger nymphs and adult mole crickets, on the other hand, are increasingly more difficult to control.

As a result, closely monitoring the lifecycle of mole crickets is necessary. In general, hatching occurs around the end of May to the first of June, depending on the season's temperatures.

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*KERRY BROOKS
Gibbs & Soell, Inc.
For Aventis, Inc.*

Mole Cricket Scouting Program

Editor's note: *This article is about a program developed specifically for the Bayer Corporation by Dr. Pat Cobb, professor emeritus from Auburn University, for the timing of MERIT™ insecticide applications for the control mole crickets and white grubs. This article is presented because the concepts and methods for determining the mole cricket egg hatch will determine the window of opportunity for optimum insect control regardless of the product used.*

MERIT Insecticide is a broad-spectrum systemic insecticide that is effective at low-use rates with properly timed application against mole crickets. It is available in several formulations (MERIT 75 WSP, MERIT 75 WP and MERIT 0.5 G).

Merit Insecticide also offers value-added insect control for the white grub complex, while providing control of mole crickets. It is common for both

pests to cause damage in the same stand of turf. With one properly timed, self-applied application per year, this two-in-one control is a smart value and time-saver compared to making two separate applications.

MERIT provided the best results when properly timed. Scouting for adult mole cricket activity is the first step for determining optimal Merit application timing.

Scouting Instructions

Begin by looking for active mole cricket tunnel damage, especially on

sunny southern slopes, tee boxes or areas damaged the previous year. Using a soap flush mixture of 1 to 2 tablespoons of lemon-scented liquid detergent in 1 gallon of water, flush active mole crickets to collect adults. Try to avoid overmixing. If the soap solution is too foamy, it can be difficult to detect the mole crickets.

The best time to flush is during the early morning or late afternoon. Pour approximately 1 quart of soapy water per square foot over fresh active tunnels. Multiple locations in a 20-foot area can be flushed at the same time. Marking with a flag makes a good reference to

Product Clarification – Less Is More

May 22, 2000

To: All Florida golf course superintendents, distributor reps and other end users of ORTHENE™ Turf Tree & Ornamental Spray (75% Powder and/or New 97 Pellet)

From: Peter Blum, Technical Sales Rep., Professional Products Group, Valent U.S.A. Corporation

I would like to clarify a few issues that several superintendents have raised regarding ORTHENE Turf, Tree & Ornamental Spray (75% powder) vs. our new formulation, ORTHENE Turf, Tree & Ornamental Spray 97.

The new OTTO 97 is a 97% pure, high-grade pelletized product and is a totally dust-free, low-odor formulation. This new generation of ORTHENE addresses worker exposure issues - issues the industry remains concerned with on all products being sold in a dusty, powder formulation.

The new OTTO 97 is packaged in a .773 lb. can and a 7.73 lb. plastic resealable zipper-lock bag. These package sizes are equivalent in active ingredient to our 1 lb. and 10 lb. OTTO 75, respectively.

In other words, 1 lb. of OTTO 75 is equal to .773 lb. of OTTO 97. Furthermore, the price of OTTO 97 in a .773 lb. can is the same as the price of the 1 lb. OTTO 75. And the price of OTTO 97 in the 7.73 lb. bag is the same as 10 pounds of our OTTO 75. Thus, OTTO 97 will be the same cost per 100 gallons of tank mix or per acre as the OTTO 75. It simply takes less of the OTTO 97 to do the job as it is almost 25% stronger.

Distributors have the option of pricing OTTO 97 to the users on a per pound basis or on a per unit basis. If they price the OTTO 97 on a per pound basis, the cost per pound will be higher than a pound of OTTO 75. But if they price OTTO 97 on a per unit basis by container size (.773 lb. or 7.773 lb) vs. OTTO 75 (1 lb. or 10 lbs.), they should be of equal value.

One last point: The new OTTO 97 is available only under the product brand name ORTHENE Turf, Tree & Ornamental Spray 97 by Valent U.S.A. Corp.

I hope this addresses the questions you have had regarding these issues. Valent U.S.A. appreciates your business and your interest in our products. If I can be of further service, feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,
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