cal pesticide use, not only are other, potentially beneficial, insects at risk, but so are humans, pets and wildlife. This is not the case with nematodes. With nematode applications, golf courses do not have to keep the public away for a time as they do with pesticides.

Nematodes are environmentally friendly as well. There is no danger of contamination of nearby water sources or other negative environmental impacts, which means there won't be any cleanup bills. In addition, the public looks kindly upon biological controls. The use of pesticides is a growing public concern, and minimizing their use when alternatives are available can contribute to a positive public image.

EASE OF USE

Application of the nematodes is simple. Mixed with water, they can be sprayed on the surface or injected into the sod under low pressure. Applying them just beneath the surface provides some protection from desiccation and ultraviolet light. Surface distribution should be followed by irrigation to help the nematodes into the soil. It may be possible to apply nematodes through existing irrigation systems as well.

The nematodes naturally have greater effect on large nymphs and adult mole crickets, as it is easier for them to find their way into the mouths and spiracles of the larger insects. Thus, it makes sense that they would be most effective in the early fall or late spring just before adult mole cricket populations reach their peak.

Demonstration and Research Sites

The Florida Legislature awarded $300,000 in state funds to the mole cricket nematode program this year. The money will enable the Mole Cricket Task Force to establish research and demonstration sites around the state to test the effective ness of the nematode product on various types of land with different amounts and methods of application. The Mole Cricket Task Force includes University of Florida and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry researchers; county extension agents; product development specialists from MicroBio; and members of the affected industries.

The nematodes will be applied during September and October at various sites around the states including golf courses, pastures, ranchland, sod farms, and city parks and playgrounds. Different methods of application (slit injection, liquid injection and spraying) will be tested and demonstrated. The results of this work will be presented at field days or workshops in areas of the state that are heavily infested with mole crickets.

Angela Brammer is a UF graduate student in entomology. For more information about the mole cricket state program, contact Dr. Norm Leppla, UF, co-chair of the Mole Cricket Task Force, at 352-391-1901 ext. 120, ncl@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu. An extensive article on the specific research and demonstration program appears in the September/October issue of Florida Turf Digest.

Turf Team Gains Entomologist

Dr. Eileen A. Buss is a new UF assistant professor and extension entomologist for turf and landscape. She received her Ph.D. in 1999 from the University of Kentucky in entomology (horticulture specialty). For her dissertation research, she determined the horned oak gall wasp's biology, within-tree distribution, potential for host-plant resistance, and management on pin oak trees. Her work earned her several prestigious awards and scholarships.

She graduated from Michigan State University with an M.S. in entomology (forestry specialty) in 1996, after evaluating the susceptibility of four Scots pine Christmas tree varieties to the Zimmerman pine moth, European pine sawfly, and pine needle scale. She earned her B.S. in 1993 from MSU with a double major in zoology and German.

Dr. Buss served almost one year as the director of the Industrial Affiliates Program in Purdue University's Urban Center before coming to UF.

As an extension specialist at UF, she will be developing and delivering educational material for the green industry on integrated insect pest management, conducting product tests against turfgrass and ornamental insect pests, and studying the biology and management of these different pests.

She stopped by the FGCSA booth at the FTGA Conference and Show in Gainesville in August to introduce herself and to ask the FGCSA for support in the state's mole cricket control program. She can be reached at 352-392-1901, Ext. 116 or eabuss@ufl.edu.

Joel Jackson

Eileen A. Buss, Ph.D.