



## Bayer Corp. agrees to restrict Nematicur use on Florida golf courses

MIAMI — Bayer Corporation, the manufacturer of Nematicur, has agreed to restrict the pesticide's use in Florida to protect wildlife and waterways.

Nematicur is used against nematodes, but has been linked to deaths of fish, birds, waterfowl and river otters at golf courses, including courses in Miami, Hollywood and Plantation. The pesticide allegedly killed wildlife when heavy summer thunderstorms flushed the chemical off the grass

and into canals and lakes.

The new restrictions are aimed at reducing the chance of downpours washing the pesticide into waterways. The rules restrict how, when and where the chemical goes on golf courses.

Bayer Corp. of Kansas City, Mo., wrote the restrictions, which are based on recommendations made three years ago by Dade officials who investigated a Nematicur-related fish kill at the Golf Club of Miami. The new in-

structions on the Nematicur label are in effect law and can be enforced by state regulatory agencies.

"We at Bayer always have the best interest of health, safety and the environment in mind," said Stephen Chaney, turf and ornamental project manager at Bayer. "Through a product stewardship effort with the Florida turf industry and state of Florida, we have developed guidelines to help ensure the proper use of Nematicur.

Our field sales people are working closely with golf superintendents and their associations to educate them to ensure that Nematicur is used in a responsible manner according to label directions."

Under the new restrictions:

- No more than 10 acres of a golf course may be treated a day. There must be a wait of at least three days before an additional 10 acres may be treated.
- The pesticide may not be

used within 10 feet of a waterway or fairway drain. The buffer is intended to soak up the chemical before it migrates to water.

- No treatments will be allowed between noon and sunset from June 1 to Sept. 30, the hours when heavy thunderstorms usually occur during the rainiest months.

- Nematicur cannot be used to control mole crickets, whose treatment requires heavier doses of pesticides than nematodes.

## Mole crickets threaten N.C.

RALEIGH, N.C. — The South American mole cricket has reportedly been eating its way across North Carolina's golf courses and now threatens the greens at the legendary Pinehurst Resort and Country Club.

"There's no doubt in my mind that mole crickets will become a serious problem in the next years at Pinehurst," said Rick Brandenburg, an insect expert at North Carolina State University.

The subterranean mole crickets have no natural enemies and are not fazed by pesticides alone. Brandenburg has recruited two of its enemies from South America — red-eyed flies and tiny, transparent roundworms — to combat the problem.

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