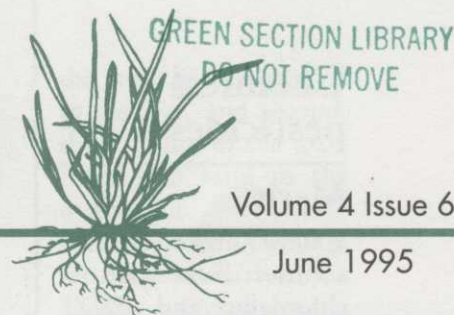


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What's new in turfgrass insect pest management products:

Focus on biological controls

By Michael G. Villani

In years past, the development of pest management products for turf has taken a distant back seat to products that targeted pests of field crops such as corn, soybeans and cotton. Products that were not effective against one or more insect pests on major food or fiber commodities had little chance of being tested against insects particular to turfgrass.

This is no longer true. A minor revolution has occurred over the past ten years as the crop protection industry has focused greater attention on so-called specialty markets like turfgrass. There is a growing appreciation that these specialty markets, although not as large as

traditional agricultural markets, provide an important and lucrative product niche. As such, several insect control products targeted at the turfgrass market have been recently registered or are in an advanced stage of development.

The following is a brief review of some of these products, together with the results of representative laboratory and field studies conducted over the last several years by my research team at Cornell. It is important to remember that these studies were conducted under ideal conditions with regard to timing, equipment calibration, quality of control agents, and environmental conditions. Field efficacy may consequently differ.



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