

PRODUCTS

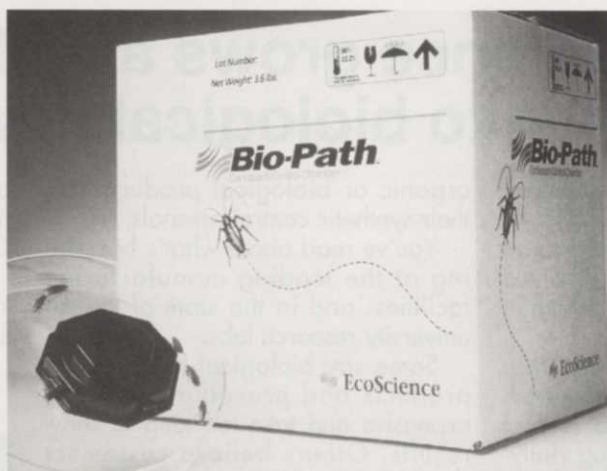
EPA gives okay to natural cockroach control product

A new patented biological cockroach control product is called BioPath.

The Cockroach Control Chamber is the first to use a naturally occurring microbial agent, instead of a synthetic chemical pesticide, to kill cockroaches.

The chamber technology is an application of a natural microbial agent to control household pests.

Although used like a bait station, the Bio-Path chamber has a dramatically different mechanism of action. Where traditional bait stations require the cockroach



to eat a chemical pesticide, the Bio-Path Cockroach Control Chamber is the first product to only require the cockroach to touch the microbial agent found within the chamber.

The exposed cockroach can then spread the microbial agent to other cockroaches through any direct contact, known as Horizontal Transfer.

For more information, contact Bio-Path's Kevin Devine, at (508 754-0300.

Bioinsecticide approved for crop protection purposes

Crop Genetics International, of Columbia, Md., announced in mid-May it had received EPA approval for its Spod-X bioinsecticide, as an active ingredient for future commercial crop protection products.

According to the company, Spod-X is the first virus-based product to be approved by the EPA in the last ten years.

Spod-X is a naturally-occurring insect virus which controls beet armyworm, a major insect pest on tomatoes, lettuce, cole crops, flowers and ornamental plants.

Insect viruses occur naturally in the environment, and are very specific in their ability to infect certain insects. The company reports the viruses present no known threat to crops, wildlife, humans or non-target insects.

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Nematode strain has greater downward mobility, efficacy

A beneficial nematode from Nematoc, called BioMega reportedly has a greater tendency to move downward through the soil, with superior host seeking abilities.

According to Nematoc Biological Control Agents of Lafayette, Calif., the *Heterorhabditids* group of nematodes has three distinguishing characteristics:

- Greater attacking ability. A minute, tooth-like structure allows the Bioomega strain to penetrate directly through the

insects' skin, rather than being restricted to natural body openings.

- Greater vertical mobility. In studies conducted in sandy loam soil, infected juveniles of *Heterorhabditis* showed a greater tendency to move downwards to a depth of 30 inches from the surface.

- Greater reproductive rate. According to the company, nematode reproduction is dependent on an infective stage of each sex entering the host. In the *Heterorhabditids* strain, all infective juveniles develop into hermaphroditic females, thus establishing a breeding colony when a single nematode enters the host.

BioMega Turf and Lawn Bio-Insecticide is based on this strain, and is designed to provide a convenient, cost-effective means of controlling Japanese beetles in turfgrass.

In research conducted at the University of Rhode Island, control results of 46 percent and 55 percent were achieved using a concentration of 666 million nematodes per acre and 3.33 billion nematodes per acre.

BioMega is also labeled for masked chafer, May/June beetles, European chafers, cutworms, armyworms and billbugs.

Fifty million *Heterorhabditid* nematodes will treat an area of at least 2,200 sq.ft. of turfgrass or soil (one billion per acre).

BioMega Turf and Lawn Bio-Insecticide costs \$20.75 for 50 million nematodes, including priority overnight delivery service.

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BIOTURF NEWS

For professional landscapers, lawn care operators and golf course superintendents interested in learning more about organic turf care supplements to existing chemical control.

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