

PRODUCTS

EPA approves biopesticide for use on turf, ornamentals

MVP biopesticide from Mycogen Corporation has been given a green light from the Environmental Protection Agency and the California EPA for a number of turf and ornamental uses.

MVP is an encapsulated bioinsecticide based on *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt).

The product's patented CellCap encapsulation improves residual activity and field performance, according to Mycogen.

Craig Laursen, specialty marketing product manager, says CellCap insecticides remain active in the field three to five

times longer than traditional Bt products. With the CellCap system, dead bacterial cells serve as biological microcapsules—or "biopackages"—which protect the fragile, insecticidal proteins from environmental degradation.

The CellCap system combines positive features from different naturally-occurring organisms. The biopackage component consists of the cell wall of *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, a non-pathogenic bacterium which is naturally found in soil, water and on plant surfaces. MVP is now approved for use on bedding plants, flowers, ornamentals, turf, shade trees and nursery trees.

Labeled pests include armyworm, buck-moth caterpillars, cabbage loopers, diamondback moths, fall armyworms, fruit tree leafrollers, loopers, omnivorous leafrollers, tent caterpillars, tobacco budworms and tortixes.

MVP is most effective against caterpillar larva in the first and second molting stages.

According to Mycogen, MVP is harmless to beneficial insects, including biocontrol predators. The product has minimal re-entry restrictions.

MVP can be used alone or in a tank mix.

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Organic soil additives custom-made for golf, athletic fields

North Woods Organics of Waupaca, Wisc., now offers sphagnum, reed-sedge, hypnum and top moss for use as soil amendments.

According to the company, these organic peats are ideal for use as components in root zone mixes, for golf course greens and tees and athletic playing fields.

Reported benefits include faster maturation of turfgrass, faster recovery from traffic and optimum water holding capacity and better disease resistance.

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New book explains dynamics of natural soil systems

Edaphos is a new book by Paul D. Sachs that explains the detailed inter-relationships between the soil and the earth's environment.

In "Edaphos," Sachs explains the reasons why the author believes mankind is critically linked to the ecosystem.

According to Sachs, the future of civilization is determined by our reverence or apathy for the soil.

The book answers questions that growers, gardeners and extension specialists always ask, according to Karen Idoine, extension specialist at the University of Massachusetts.

To order or obtain more information, call (802) 222-4277

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Video explains right way to compost, build recycle centers

A new video entitled *Composting: A Recipe for Success*, is available from Compost Productions, at International Marketing Exchange, Inc., McHenry, Ill.

The video is hosted by Cort Sinnes, a syndicated columnist and former editor of *Flower & Garden Magazine*.



Included are tips for building backyard recycling centers to help homeowners take advantage of the opportunities to convert the many household products that can be collected and recycled.

Cost is \$14.95, plus \$3 for shipping charges. Quantity pricing is available.

To order or obtain more information, call (815) 363-0909.

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EVENTS

OCTOBER 18-21: Biological controls as viable methods of pest management is the subject of a turf conference to be held in Madison, Wisc.

The conference will include useful information on identification and control of beneficial predators in pest control.

With the expansion of biocontrols from agriculture to turf care, the conference is open to forest managers, greenhouse and nurserymen, extension agents and landscape contractors as well as farm industry personnel.

Dan Mahr, entomologist at the University of Wisconsin Madison says predator pest control has been used for more than 100 years, but has been less popular than chemical control products.

●Participants will learn the basics of biological control; insects and mites as pests; the importance of natural control; beneficial natural enemies and approaches to biological control.

●Methods of biological control, such as releasing beneficial natural enemies and encouraging those that occur naturally, will be discussed.

●A crop protection seminar covers biological control for alfalfa, corn, crucifers, vegetables, fruit crops, forests, stored products and nursery and landscape plantings.

For more information, contact Lee Gottschalk at (608) 263-1672.