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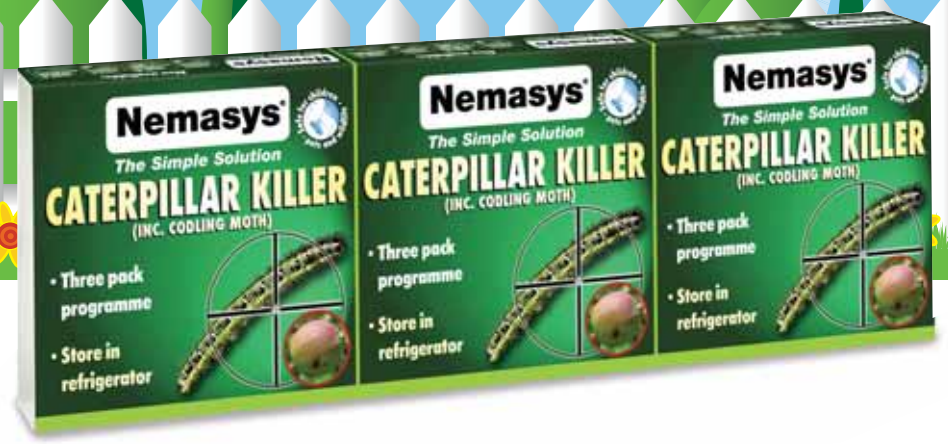
Welcome to Nemasys® News



NEW FOR 2008

Home and garden brassica and apple growers will be pleased to learn that the dreaded Cabbage White Caterpillar and Codling Moths in fruit trees can be controlled by nematodes. Commercial growers have been successfully using the nematode Steinernema carpocapse for some years on the two pests and now it is available to everyone.

The nematodes are applied directly to the cabbages and other brassicas as a wash. Three applications are used as soon as you see the pest to kill caterpillars that will hatch over a period of time. Says allotment holder, Sue Hinton, "I was amazed with the results when I used it. After the first application most of the caterpillars disappeared but you need to use a further two applications five days or a week after each other to ensure all hatchings are killed. The solution needs to be applied to all leaf surfaces and you need to make sure that you spray the pest. Pests not directly sprayed will not be controlled so do make sure that you hit them."

Cabbage White Caterpillars are also responsible for eating ornamentals, especially nasturtiums.

For Codling Moths the nematodes are used to control the over wintering pupae on trees and ground from September. The nematodes are applied with a pump sprayer during the evenings or on dull days.

For more information on Nemaslug and the other Nemasys products, go to www.nemasysinfo.com For editorial information ring DSH PR on 01252 408820.

Slug Boy - Following in his Father's Footsteps – We Don't Think So!

If recent exploits are anything to go by, young Euan Gowling doesn't look like he's about to follow in his father's footsteps. Dad is Dr Graeme Gowling, Becker Underwood's European General Manager, producer of Nemaslug slug killer, but 6 year old Euan has his own agenda, breeding slugs in his bedroom!

Euan, from Storrington in West Sussex, has always had an interest in creepy crawlies and when he found a couple of slugs during last summer he decided to keep them as pets. He kept them so well that they bred profusely.

"I don't know how many he had at their peak," says Graeme, "but it was around 50 or so. Of course they kept escaping so were all over his bedroom! Eventually they died off a bit and his mother sensing a reduction in his enthusiasm said enough was enough and threw them out into the garden as they were really stinking by this stage. We lived with the slugs at home for about 4 months."

Not only has Euan had success in breeding slugs but he has also had similar successes with rearing worms and caterpillars.

"The caterpillars were a delight, he collected them off nettles and tried to identify them, but we had to wait to see what happened to be absolutely sure. A month or so later they emerged as beautiful peacock butterflies," continues Graeme.

Becker Underwood has sold 2.2 trillion Nemaslug nematodes in 2007 and seen a 56% increase in their business over the last year.

Nematodes and Potatoes

Branston Ltd, one of the country's leading potato suppliers, is helping their growers discover just how good Nemaslug is at controlling slugs. Based in Branston, Lincolnshire, with further production sites in Somerset and Scotland, the company has an annual turnover of more than £100 million and is Tesco's largest fresh produce supplier, sourcing around 400,000 tonnes of potatoes a year.

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Slugs are a serious and potentially very costly problem for potato growers, so Branston is keen to find an effective solution. Following successful field trials in 2006, Branston encouraged a number of their growers to use Nemaslug during 2007. The initial target was to treat 100 hectares with Nemaslug, but due to the wet and humid season demand increased to over 450 hectares.

"This year 30 of our growers tried Nemaslug and it was so successful that we are encouraging more of them use the product in 2008," says Dr Andy Barker, R&D Manager at Branston.

Branston recommends Nemaslug to its growers and supports them to ensure its correct application. Keeled slugs (Milax & Tandonia spp.) are particularly problematic in potatoes as they are more active underground and therefore harder to control with conventional pesticide pellets. "Nemaslug works well in the places that pellets can't reach," says Andy.

Water is key to successful growth and also to enable nematodes to reach the slugs underground. When the weather is dry the nematodes need to be watered in well. In the garden, the judicious use of a hosepipe or sprinkler is sufficient to wash them in. Branston and Becker Underwood are collaborating to develop application through the standard raingun so that growers will be less reliant on the weather.

"We're keen to encourage the use of Nemaslug, either as a continuous programme or in conjunction with other modes of control as part of our Integrated Crop Management strategy (ICM)," continues Andy. "As Branston supplies Tesco and follows the Nature's Choice guidelines, reducing the number of slug pellets used is very attractive. Using environmentally friendly controls, such as Nemaslug, can help towards a greener environment and a more sustainable approach to slug control."

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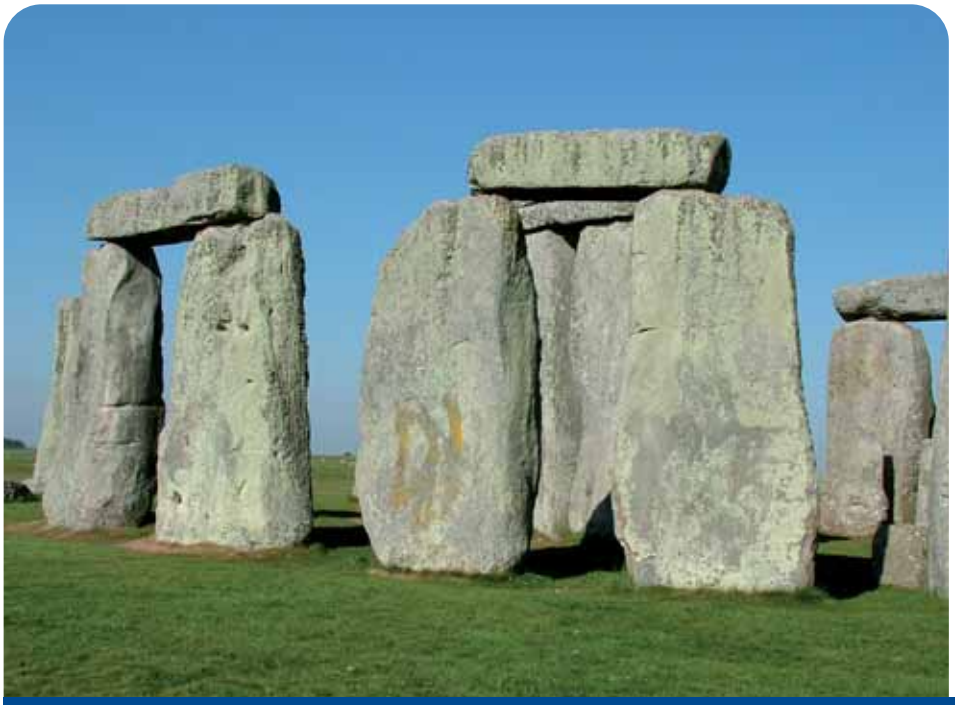
Stonehenge Siege Lifted

English Heritage is winning its battle against invading forces at Stonehenge, Wiltshire thanks to native nematodes. Hosting 800,000 human visitors a year is one thing, but when the famous landmark found chafer grubs plaguing its grass pathways, the world-renowned visitor attraction needed help! It came in the form of Nemasys Chafer Grub Killer, which was applied to 5000 sq m of grass to the southeast of the stones.

Chafer grubs, one of the top ten garden pests according to the RHS, had caused problems for years by eating the grass roots. This was exacerbated by jackdaws pulling up the grass to seek out the grubs, resulting in unsightly bald patches. Add to that the constant flow of visitors and English Heritage had to keep moving visitor paths away from the damage that encircled the famous stones. There was yet another problem too - when the chafer grubs hatched, the resulting swarm of beetles would fly up at the visitors who found it extremely off-putting to say the least.

Due to the large number of visitors including children and with local wildlife and sheep grazing in the neighbouring fields, there was no way that English Heritage wanted to resort to chemicals so they had to come up with a natural, environmentally friendly solution - Nemasys Chafer Grub Killer. Within a week of the first application, back in September 2006, the secondary damage from wildlife reduced considerably. A review of the results in April 2007 has led English Heritage to order more Nemasys Chafer Grub Killer – enough to treat an area twice the size of the original application.

Says English Heritage's Chris Bally, Landscape Manager for Stonehenge and the southwest, "Nemasys Chafer Grub Killer has cured the treated areas. We found it extremely effective and chafer grubs have not caused us a problem at all this year on the treated areas. Now we are targeting other infected areas and hopefully we will not have a chafer grub problem at all in a couple of years."



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Becker Underwood's Quality Control

Strict controls and procedures ensure that nematodes leave the Becker Underwood factory in Littlehampton in tip top condition. As nematodes are living organisms the Becker Underwood team, the world's leading producers of nematodes, have spent decades perfecting the production of nematodes in the state of the art facility in Littlehampton, the largest in the world.

Quality control starts in the laboratory with the 'brood' culture that will be upscale in large vats, with strictly controlled temperatures and conditions. Samples are taken at each stage of production and tested to make sure the nematodes are at the right stage of development to be effective pest controls. Samples are also taken postproduction, when the nematodes have been packaged ready to send out to distributors. All these samples are subjected to nematode counts and stringent Bioassay tests to confirm the potency and consistency of all production batches. In recognition of the high standards at Becker Underwood, the facility is compliant with recognized quality control standards including ISO 9001:2000.

"There are more species of nematodes in the world than there are insects and we concentrate our production on those that help commercial and home growers to control pests in a cost effective way" says Becker Underwood's nematode division general manager, Dr Graeme Gowling. "Before we go into production with a new species to control a target pest, we spend years researching and testing the product. Once the nematodes have been used for years with commercial growers and only when they achieve high success rates do we release them to the home and garden market."

Nematodes to the Rescue Once Again

Hall Hunter Partnership (HHP) is one of the largest producers of Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blueberries in the UK, their farms produce over 1,000 tons of fruit from 750 acres/ 303 hectares.

As part of their strong ongoing environmental policy HHP have always recognised the value of introducing Integrated Pest Management programmes as a key part of managing their crops.

One of the most damaging pests is Vine Weevil, the main cause of concern is the damage caused by the vine weevil grubs to the roots of the different soft fruits grown on their farms. The plants that are affected have much poorer root systems and the fruit yields are significantly reduced a serious problem for a commercial grower.

Working with Becker Underwood, HHP has been using Nemasys Vine Weevil Killer successfully for several seasons to control the damage from this pest. HHP grow their fruit in fields, bags and container systems, one of the key benefits of Nemasys Vine Weevil Killer is the ease of application, the nematodes can easily be applied through their field irrigation, drippers and of course a conventional drench application.

The other key benefit for using Nemasys Vine Weevil Killer is this product contains Becker Underwood's unique the low temperature tolerant nematode developed in conjunction with the Horticultural Research Institute, Warwick, UK. The nematode can control vine weevil grubs in soil temperatures as low as 5ºC, this means that applications can be made in early spring targeting the vine weevil grubs before they have had the chance to cause serious damage to the fruit crop.

Where Nemasys Vine Weevil Killer was applied there was a huge improvement in the stock and by killing the grubs, the pests lifecycle was broken leading to much greater control. As a result HHP plans to use Nemasys Vine Weevil Killer on other areas.

More Commercial Endorsement for Nemasys

As well as providing solutions for home and garden lawn pests, Nemasys products are used by turf professionals to help control leatherjackets and chafer grubs on a wide range of sports turf surfaces. Becker Underwood have reached an agreement with Scotts Professional, one of UK's leading supplier of fertilisers and plant protection products, to supply these innovative products throughout the UK and Ireland.

"Nemasys Leatherjacket Killer and Nemasys Chafer Grub Killer are the ideal solutions for the control of chafer grubs and leatherjackets, the products are natural, safe, easy to use and very effective at all larval stages. This means it can be used when the grubs are actively feeding and secondary damage risk is highest. We are confident that turf managers will find the product a very effective weapon against these pests," says Scotts' UK marketing manager, Dave Steward. "We are delighted to have formed a partnership with the company to supply Nemasys G to the very important professional turf market."

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Available in the Nemasys Range

Slug Killer (Medium)
12 million nematodes. Treats up to 40m² (50 sq. yards)

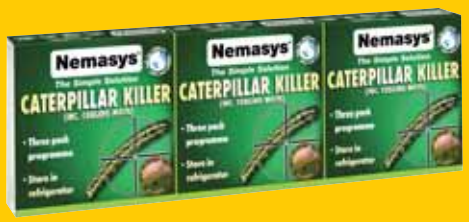
Slug Killer (Large)
30 million nematodes. Treats up to 100m² (125 sq. yards)

Chafer Grub Killer (Medium)
50 million nematodes. Treats up to 100m² (125 sq. yards)

Vine Weevil Killer (Small)
6 million nematodes
Treats up to 160 pots or 12m² (14 sq. yards) of open soil

Vine Weevil Killer (Medium)
50 million nematodes
Treats up to 100m² (125 sq. yards) of open soil

Leatherjacket Killer (Medium)
50 million nematodes. Treats up to 100m² (125 sq. yards)



Caterpillar Killer (Three Pack Programme)
Treats up to 40m² (50 sq. yards) or 20 trees