

Beneficial Nematodes

for Landscapers & Gardeners



What are Nematodes?

Nematodes are naturally occurring, microscopic worms that are applied to lawns or nursery stock for control of major turf or garden pests that inhabit the soil at least partially during their life cycle. Nematodes infest and kill their prey within 24-48 hours and continue to reproduce, with the young seeking out new pest hosts.

Nematodes are available through TerraLink as a special order item.

What are they used for?

Certain species of nematodes target certain pests. Depending on which kind of nematode you buy, they are used to control pests such as:

- Grubs (larva of the June Beetle, Black Vine Weevil, European Chafer or Japanese Beetle plus others)
- Leatherjackets (larvae of the European Crane Flies)
- Caterpillars (various types of moths such as Corn borer)
- Fungus gnats and Sciarid flies

It is important to diagnose the problem accurately before deciding on a specific course of action since dog spots, over fertilization and diseases can create brown patches on your lawn or cause damage to nursery stock.

When do I apply nematodes?

Timing is very important. Apply nematodes as soon as possible after purchase during rainy overcast weather. Nematodes are sensitive to sunlight and temperatures below 13°C or above 35°C. More than one application may be required when soil conditions are not ideal for nematode survival. (Tip: Aerate your lawn before application as this will help nematodes enter the soil).

Apply when pest insects are actively feeding, usually in late April / early May until late June (depending on species) and again from mid August through late September. Late summer and early fall is the best time to apply as this is when the pest larvae are the most vulnerable, being small, thin skinned and near the surface feeding on roots.

How do I apply?

Before applying the nematodes, water your lawn or nursery stock thoroughly or apply during or shortly after a rainfall.

- Mix nematodes from the supplied gel pack into a small amount of cool water to make a concentrated solution of nematodes (nematodes are not homogenous in the gel pack)
- Further dilute the concentrate to desired dilution and distribute over lawn or potted plants using a hose-end sprayer, a pump spray, watering can or pail. Remove all filters and agitate the container to prevent the nematodes from settling to the bottom.
- Keep your lawn or pots moist for at least 10 days after applying.

Always follow label instructions carefully and keep nematodes refrigerated until used. Use entire package at one time.

Species available through TerraLink

Heterorhabditis bacteriophora

Works on Black Vine Weevil, Leatherjacket or Crane fly, Beetle grubs in lawn and turf. The nematode enters the larvae via mouth, anus or respiratory openings and starts to feed. This causes specific bacteria to emerge from the intestinal tract of the nematode. The bacteria spreads inside the insect and multiplies very rapidly. The bacteria convert host tissue into products which can easily be taken up by the nematodes. The host larvae die within a few days. Best applied to the soil in April and May, then again in September through Mid November.

Coverage:

- 50 million in gel pack covers 100 m² (1,000 sq.ft.)
- 500 million in gel pack covers 1,000 m² (10,000 sq.ft.)

Sold as 50 million or 500 million unit packet

Steinernema carpocapsae

Works on soil and leaf-dwelling pests or caterpillars such as Noctuids (Moths), Pyralidae (Moths), Tipulidae (Crane Flies), great pine weevil, Cranberry Girdler, some beetle species larvae and the larvae of *Capnodis tenebrionis* (Wood Boring beetles).

Same mode of action, application rates and timing as *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*.

Coverage:

- 50 million covers 100 m² (1,000 sq.ft.)
- 500 million covers 1,000 m² (10,000 sq.ft.)

50 million or 500 million in a gel tray

Steinernema feltiae

Works on Sciarid flies, Fungus gnats and Thrips larvae.

Same mode of action, application rates and timing as *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*.

Coverage:

- 50 million covers 100 m² (1,000 sq.ft.)
- 500 million covers 1,000 m² (10,000 sq.ft.)

50 million or 500 million in a gel tray

Order by end of day Wednesday for following Tuesday delivery of any living beneficial organism.