

SEPTEMBER 10th, 2011

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RESPONSE TO DENISE HODGINS

LONDON FEE PRESS

LONDON, ONTARIO

According to Denise Hodgins, there are « *fall tricks* » like Entomo-Pathogenic Nematode Insecticides to bring about great looking lawns next spring.

Recommending these nematode species for this purpose is MIS-GUIDED and WRONG !

Hodgins also ALLEGES that Entomo-Pathogenic Nematode Insecticides are a « *safe and sensible way to reduce White Grubs infestations* ».

This COULD NOT BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH !

Entomo-Pathogenic Nematode Insecticides are NOT viable, efficacious, or economical GREEN ALTERNATIVES to replace conventional insect control products.

Overall, Entomo-Pathogenic Nematode Insecticides are DISMAL FAILURES since they merely SUPPRESS or INHIBIT insect pests of turf.

Entomo-Pathogenic Nematode Insecticides CANNOT be consistently considered as true alternatives to conventional insecticides, since the insect pests are often only SUPPRESSED, and NOT CONTROLLED.

Laboratory and field tests tend to indicate that the best nematode species are only MARGINALLY EFFECTIVE in controlling insect infestations.

On the other hand, conventional pest control products fully and effectively control insect pests.

Better To DO NOTHING

Government Officials and Anti-Pesticide Activists had somehow assured the public that safe, effective, and affordable Green Alternatives, like Entomo-Pathogenic Nematode Insecticides, were already available to replace conventional pest control products.

They were WRONG !

The Green Alternatives were BOGUS, LESS EFFECTIVE, and STUNNINGLY EXPENSIVE !

In those jurisdictions where PROHIBITION has been IMPOSED, it would be preferable for the home-owner or Professional Lawn Care company to DO NOTHING rather than use Entomo-Pathogenic Nematode Insecticides.

Sadly, any PROHIBITION of conventional pest control products was NOT JUSTIFIED because STRICT REGULATIONS BASED ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ALREADY PROTECT OUR HEALTH and OUR ENVIRONMENT.

Unacceptable Control

Entomo-Pathogenic Nematodes will kill NO MORE THAN FIFTY TO SIXTY-FIVE PER CENT of the damaging insect population, which is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Some Nematode species have even provided INEFFECTIVE CONTROL, with SUPPRESSION levels AS LOW AS TWENTY-FIVE TO FORTY PER CENT.

Some reports have indicated that, under ideal conditions, some Entomo-Pathogenic Nematode Insecticides can be AS EFFECTIVE as some conventional insecticides.

However, this comparison was made with conventional insecticides like chlorpyrifos that also provided UNACCEPTABLE control of certain insects like White Grubs.

University of Guelph

Research conducted at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute has shown NEMATODES TO BE marginally effective in controlling infestations

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture

According to Pamela Charbonneau, Turfgrass Specialist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, in a Factsheet on Lawn Maintenance —

« Apply beneficial nematodes for the MARGINAL CONTROL of European Chafer and Japanese Beetle larva. »

Art Drysdale

Art Drysdale is the nation's best-known celebrity horticulturist, plant expert, writer, speaker, radio and television broadcaster.

According to Drysdale —

« NEMATODES DO NOT WORK, and I DO NOT RECOMMEND THEM.

Currently, nematodes have NOT BEEN WIDELY-ADOPTED for use by the turf industry because of their HIGH COST and because the environmental conditions necessary to guarantee the success of the nematode treatments RARELY EXIST.

In addition to all of this, nematode insecticides are NOT REGISTERED as pest control products in Canada.

Neither the federal nor the provincial governments have officially scheduled or classified nematode insecticides as a pest control product.

Consequently, there is NO OBLIGATION on the part of the manufacturer to divulge a full range of safety information such as human toxicity and environmental impact, which is the case with conventional pest control products.

This information will eventually be required, not just concerning the nematodes themselves, but also for the SYMBIOTIC BACTERIA that they carry.

It is inevitable that the failure to regulate nematode products will eventually create a public relations problem.

It will not be taken for granted for very long that an organism that is defined as INFECTIVE will require the need for more safety information in order to justify its status as reduced-risk.

Additionally, the failure to regulate nematode products appears to be in direct contravention of the federal definition of a pest control product (or pesticide), as interpreted by the federal Pest Control Products Act. »

Other Questionable Recommendations

Hodgins recommends PERENNIAL RYEGRASS as « *the best grass for northern gardeners* ».

This is a BAD IDEA for Ontario since this species is a SHORT-LIVED PERENNIAL and is SUSCEPTIBLE to WINTER INJURY.

Hodgins also recommends the application of CORN GLUTEN MEAL « *to stop crabgrass* ».

In fact, COMPETENT and LEGITIMATE university research has proven that CORN GLUTEN MEAL DOES NOT CONTROL ANY WEEDS, in ANY trials, under ANY circumstances.

For more information, please go to the Pesticide Truths web-site ...

It is a LIBRARY OF REPORTS that contains History, Links, News, Audios, and Videos with ALL Force Of Nature and Pesticide Truths reports, and information right-off-the-press, in Black & White Documents

<http://pesticidetruths.com/>

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<http://uncleadolph.blogspot.com/>

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<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/>

There is also a series of documents called A LOOK AT which provide recommendations for turfgrass management.

William H. Gathercole and Norah G

National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green Space Industry (NORAHG)

NORAHG is an INDEPENDENT NON-PROFIT organization.