

# Crows are destroying Cambridge University lawns

Two colleges are now having to re-turf their lawns after crows took advantage of a soaring pest population

**BYFLO SNEAD**

11:36, 27 OCT 2016

**UPDATED**13:17, 27 OCT 2016



**Pembroke College is one of those said to be re-turfing its lawn after being targeted by crows**

The immaculate lawns of Cambridge University are being spoiled by crows feasting on bugs after an EU ban on a pesticide, it has emerged.

This population of the pests has soared after the spray containing a chemical called imidacloprid was outlawed because it is toxic harmful to bees.

As a result crows have had a field day digging up the lawns looking for the chafer bugs, a soil-dwelling beetle which feasts on the roots of the grass.

That makes the lawn vulnerable to damage and when the crows dig for the bugs the weakened grass roots mean they also dig up the turf.

The famous lawns at seven colleges are reported to have been affected and two, at Jesus and Pembroke, are having to be re-turfed.

The colleges have introduced nematodes, worms that eat and destroy the chafer grubs, in a bid to combat the problem.

But that is not without its problems and Jesus College had to re-turf their entire first court lawn because the area is unsuitable for nematodes.

A post on its Facebook page said: "The situation has become quite severe over the last two to three weeks and large areas of lawn have suffered as a result, First Court in particular.

"The use of nematodes has proved unreliable.

"Our gardeners will apply topsoil and seed along with fertiliser, which the birds dislike, once the destructiveness has ceased."

Some people are asking why some colleges are affected and not others.

Paul Gallant, the head gardener of Selwyn College, said it all depends on the type of soil.

Thankfully because the chafer beetle cannot fly very far or very high making it hard from them to travel between colleges.

However, Mr Gallant said that Selwyn's infestation had come over from the Sidgwick site.

In April 2013, the EU enforced a Europewide ban of three bee-harming pesticides called neonicotinoids, including the chemical imidacloprid.

In January 2016, this ban was reviewed, but in April it was confirmed that imidacloprid is highly toxic to bumblebees and was taken off the market.

The winter weather could halt the problem temporarily as the cold will make the grubs go deeper into the soil and out of range of the crows.

But if they do burrow down the problem will come back in spring, just in time for the annual May Ball.

<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/crows-destroying-cambridge-university-lawns--12086122?service=responsive>

## **NORAHG RESPONDS AGAINST NEMATODE INSECTICIDES — USING THEM AMOUNTS TO DOING NOTHING !**

With reckless and arbitrary pesticide bans, green spaces invariably become PEST-INFESTED DANGEROUS GARBAGE DUMPS. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7C4> Cambridge University had better get used to living with GARBAGE DUMP GREEN SPACES, since it is IMPOSSIBLE to adequately control damaging pests, like European Chafer, without the use of conventional insect control products. Recommending entomo-pathogenic nematode insecticides for controlling damaging insects of turf is mis-guided and wrong ! It would be better to do nothing rather than use nematodes. Entomo-pathogenic nematode insecticides are not viable, efficacious, practical, or economical green alternatives to replace conventional insect control products. 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. In fact, conventional insect control products, such as Merit ( imidacloprid ), are deemed safer than entomo-pathogenic nematode insecticides. NO ONE WANTS THIS #@!!% NONSENSE !

## **WE SPEAK THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT NEMATODE INSECTICIDES, FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE !**

We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries ( NORAHG ). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are environmentalists who are dedicated to reporting about Truth-Challenged Pesticide-Hating Fanatics who conspire

to destroy businesses that are dependent on their use of conventional pest control products. We also report on the work of Respected and Highly-Rated Experts who promote Environmental Realism and Pesticide Truths.

<http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> If you wish to receive free reports on issues that concern you, please contact us at ... [force.of.de.nature@gmail.com](mailto:force.of.de.nature@gmail.com) We Dare To Defy The Pesticide-Hating Fanatics By Exploring The Whole Truth From An Independent Perspective On The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

## **FOR THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT NEMATODE INSECTICIDES, PLEASE GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINKS ...**

**NEMATODES** -- MARGINALLY EFFECTIVE ... BETTER TO DO NOTHING ( [Web-Page](#) )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/toc/nematode-insecticide-marginally-effective-better-to-do-nothing/>

**NEMATODES** -- A SAFE WAY TO REDUCE WHITE GRUB INFESTATION [?!?!] -- THEY DO NOT WORK ! ( [Blog](#) )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/09/13/responding-against-screeching-monkeys-child-exploitation-ecocide-litigious-bee-keepers-london-free-press-nematode-insecticides-prince-edward-island-rachel-carson-sierra-club-2014-09/>

**NEMATODES** -- YOU GET 30 PER CENT CONTROL, IF YOU'RE LUCKY, WHEN APPLIED CORRECTLY ( [Report](#) )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2014/06/03/pesticide-pcp-29535-fiesta-kills-only-the-top-of-the-weed-the-tap-root-remains-unaffected-the-grass-is-greener/>

**NEMATODES** -- CARNAGE LEADING TO GARBAGE DUMP GREEN SPACES ( [Report](#) )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Force-Of-Nature-Green-Alternative-Nematode-Insecticide-2012-08-07-CARNAGE-GARBAGE-DUMP-Tough-On-Lawns-pdf.pdf>

**NEMATODES** -- RECOMMENDING NEMATODE PRODUCTS IS MIS-GUIDED & WRONG ( [Letter to the Editor](#) )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Force-Of-Nature-Green-Alternative-Nematode-Insecticide-2011-09-10-Letter-to-the-Editor-Hodgins-Failure-RESPONSE-pdf.pdf>

**NEMATODES** -- NEMATODE PRODUCTS ARE NOT EFFECTIVE FOR THE CONTROL OF EUROPEAN CHAFER ( [Letter to the Editor](#) )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Force-Of-Nature-Green-Alternative-Nematode-Insecticide-2011-08-25-Letter-to-the-Editor-Pakistan-WCTA-RESPONSE-pdf.pdf>

**NEMATODES** -- NEMATODE PRODUCTS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED TRUE ALTERNATIVES TO CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTS -- ONTARIO BROCHURE ( [Report](#) )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Force-Of-Nature-Green-Alternative-Nematode-Insecticide-2011-02-10-BOGUS-Ontario-Brochure-pdf-300-dpi.pdf>

**NEMATODES** -- CURRENTLY, NEMATODE PRODUCTS 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 -- CHARBONNEAU ( [Report](#) )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2011/01/11/plant-parasitic-nematodes-from-omafra-publication-384-by-pam-charbonneau-omafra-turfgrass-specialist/>

**NEMATODES** -- NURSERY AND SOD GROWERS WEB-SITE IS NOW SUGGESTING NEMATODE PRODUCTS INSTEAD OF DIAZINON FOR GRUB CONTROL -- WE KNOW THAT NEMATODES DON'T WORK FOR GRUBS ( Report )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/2010/12/23/nursery-and-sod-growers-association-of-ontario-green-certified-sod-recommendation-diazinon-for-grub-control/>

**NEMATODES** -- NEMATODES DO NOT WORK, AND I DO NOT RECOMMEND THEM -- WISDOM OF DRYSDALE ( Report )

<http://pesticidetruths.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Force-Of-Nature-Green-Alternative-Nematode-Insecticide-2011-01-23-Wisdom-of-Drysdale-DO-NOT-WORK-pdf-300-dpi.pdf>