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Welcome to

Nemasys®

News

In this edition of Nemasys News we tell you all about the new developments in Nemasys products plus we feature stories of school children's experiences of using nematodes. We also have a new free internet game and website that have been designed to show everyone how safe and effective the products are.

World Wide Web shows the Power of Nematodes

We are often asked "how do nematodes work?" So now, there's a new free game on the internet at www.sluginvaders.com that demonstrates, in a light hearted and fun way, that nematodes seek out and destroy slugs. We will be monitoring the hits on the website so it will be interesting to see how many people play the game over the coming months. Try it and pass it on.

In addition, there's a new website www.safegardens4u.co.uk that shows how safe and easy nematodes are to apply. So for the Nemasys pest control range, comprising brand leader Nemaslug, Nemasys Vine Weevil Killer, Leatherjacket Killer and Chafer Grub Killer, there's lots of news in 2007!

"We wanted more people, especially not so keen gardeners, to know about nematodes and how they worked," says Becker Underwood's European general manager, Dr. Graeme Gowling.

"www.sluginvaders.com is a fun game that shows everyone how nematodes kill slugs. The game will appeal to adults and children, gardeners and non-gardeners alike. It's based on the old space invaders game, which is seeing a resurgence in popularity. Your highest



score is shown, so you can go back time and again to see if you can beat it. The bright and cheerful new website www.safegardens4u.co.uk complements the existing www.nemasysinfo.com website and highlights the safety benefits of using nematodes to kill slugs, vine weevil, chafer grubs and leatherjackets. It is an animated site where you can click on different parts of two gardens to see what happens when you apply various products."

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

HOW TO USE:

Follow the simple 2-step application

1. Take one eighth of the pack contents and add to an 8 litre (2 gallon) watering can. Fill the can with clean water and mix thoroughly.



2. Apply immediately, using a coarse rose on the can, to a eighth of the soil area to be treated. Then apply an equal amount of water to the treated area.



This pack fills 8 watering cans and treats up to 100m² (125sq. yards).

Now more easily applied with a recommended garden hose applicator - see www.nemasysinfo.com

Vine Weevil Killer (Medium) Treats up to 100m² (125 sq. yards)

New, Quicker Application

Also new for 2007 - simplified application instructions for all products, making it even quicker and easier to apply.

Gardeners now have the choice of applying by watering can using the new quick 2-step approach or by using a recommended hose end feeder. Becker Underwood has also re-designed the packaging to meet the latest postal regulations on size and added striking new images.

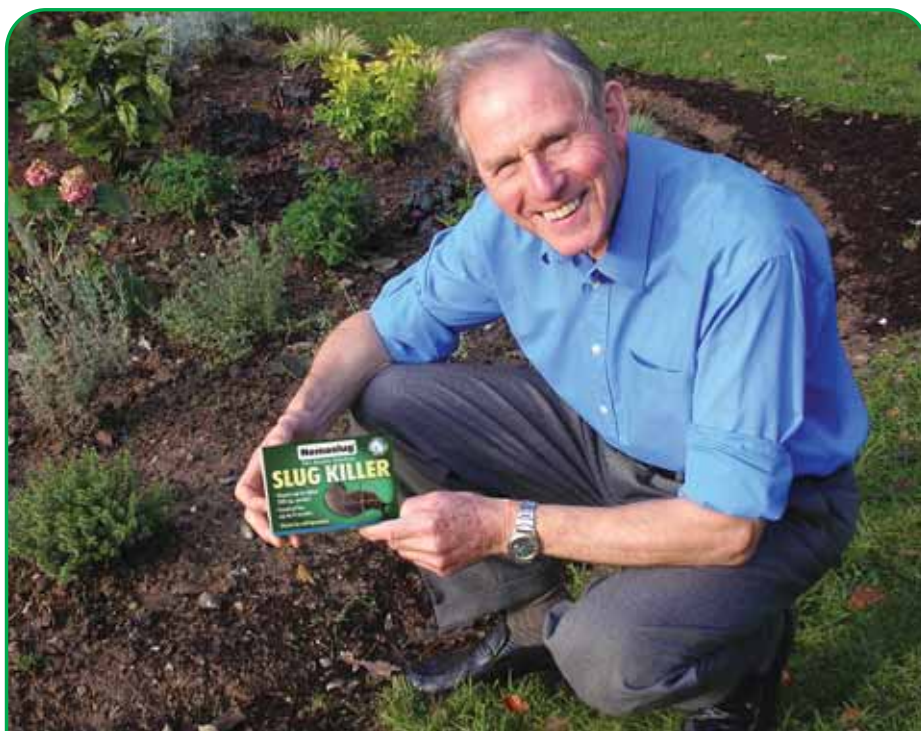
Nematode sales continue to increase as more and more gardeners find out how effective they are. With increasing concerns over safety, especially on food crops and on lawns where children and pets play, people appreciate that Nemaslug and Nemasys products are safe for children, pets and wildlife.



To apply with a hose end feeder, Becker Underwood recommends either the **Phostrogen™ Handy Feeder** or the **Miracle-Gro™ Feeder**. Full instructions on applying with a feeder can be found at www.nemasysinfo.com

Control Slugs Now to Avoid High Populations

Gardeners are discovering that there are more slugs around this spring. As allotment holders spring dig they are discovering slugs active beneath the surface and early food crops are getting damaged by slugs. Touch the compost heap, pick your daffodils, move a slab or a flowerpot and there are plenty of slugs to be found. Normally at this time of the year, with more severe frosts about, there would be fewer slugs.



"It really works," says horticulturist and journalist, John Negus, "Nemaslug kills slugs underground, which is where 95% of them are to be found."

The garden centres are enjoying a boom from early gardeners and the slugs are enjoying early meals on customer purchases.

This spring has been wet and humid so far and Becker Underwood are enjoying lots of early sales of Nemaslug. Gardeners should act now to keep this year's overall slug population down. The weather this spring promises to see large numbers of slugs hatching throughout the year. We had a wet and humid spring 2006, which led to a bumper crop of eggs being laid last autumn, followed by a mild winter and now a humid spring. This all equates to a boom in the slug population.

Slugs are still the number one garden pest in Britain. Each grey field slug can have up to 90,000 grandchildren, each with around 27,000 teeth, looking to consume it's own body weight each day. Each cubic metre of soil contains an average of 200 slugs with up to 95% of them below the soil surface where pellets can't get at them.

By applying nematodes now you will reduce the slug numbers for the rest of the year because you are killing the slugs that have over wintered and hatched early. More people are taking advantage of planned programmes, which means nematodes arrive on your doorstep just when you need them.

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Safety with Nematodes

If you use chemical pest controls you have to follow strict safety precautions indicated on the pack, especially in regard to children, pets and wildlife.

For example chemical controls for chafer grubs and leatherjackets have implications for grazing animals, which should be excluded from the ground for four weeks after application. This can mean finding other grassed areas for your rabbit or horse to graze. Nematodes have been especially useful in controlling chafer grubs at a Norfolk stud because, whilst killing chafer grubs, Nemasys does not affect the

horses. So with nematodes you do not have a safety issue. In fact they are so safe that the pack says to store it in the fridge - to keep the nematodes fresh until they are used before the expiry date.



Children Successfully use Nematodes

As nematodes are completely safe and easy to mix, they have notched up notable success when applied by school children. Here we recount some of their recent stories.

Teacher Lesley Hunter from **Creavery Primary School in Antrim, Northern Ireland** reported to Becker Underwood that in her school grounds the children were growing perennials and vegetables. She didn't have a particular problem with slugs but the snails were in need of constant control as they were climbing everywhere. After using Nemaslug she said it was very effective and there were no signs of slugs and the snail numbers had greatly reduced. **"I am very impressed,"** declared Lesley.



Becker Underwood doesn't specifically promote Nemaslug as a control for snails, but over the years gardeners have reported

that snails tend to keep away from ground that has been treated with nematodes.

The Cardinal Wiseman School in Coventry was one of the first of four schools to be designated a Rural Dimension School.

As part of their curriculum they teach rural science - half agriculture and half horticulture. Gardening is high on their agenda and they have an active after school gardening club for the younger pupils as well.

In rural science they have to cover biological pest control and the children used Nemaslug on their hostas, lettuce and indeed anything that was vulnerable to slugs. They drenched the ground at the end of June beginning of July and through the summer had very little evidence of slugs. The pupils applied Nemaslug under supervision and used the experience as learning initiatives in literacy, numeracy and biology.

Steve Thorpe from Haworth Primary School told Becker Underwood that the



gardening club had always needed to use pellets to control the slugs and that they had found that snails were an increasing problem over the past couple of years.

The gardening club grew cabbage, cauliflowers, brussels sprouts, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, peas and beans in their raised vegetable beds. After using Nemaslug Steve said, **"Nemaslug was very impressive in controlling our slug and snail problems. It was very effective and thank you for telling us about it."**

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And what's more it is **Safe for Bees...**

The honeybee is only now found in beekeepers' hives as there are no wild honeybees left in this country.

Bees have an extremely important role to play in food production and with native species constantly under threat from parasites and other predators, gardeners are keen not to harm the bees that visit their plots. So if this is the case why would gardeners want to use pesticides, and especially imidacloprid, to make life even harder for the bee?

One of the statements on a chemical product recently introduced for the

control chaffer grubs in lawns containing the active ingredient imidacloprid says...

- High risk to bees.
- Apply away from bees.
- Do not apply when flowering weeds are present.

With this kind of risk to the gardeners' friend why would you use anything other than nematodes to control chafer grubs and leatherjackets?



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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)