

## Beneficial Nematodes – Nems

Beneficial nematodes have emerged as the only alternative to chemical insecticides for the control of a wide range of soil inhabiting insects, particularly when they are introduced into environmental condition that favor their activity, survival and host seeking capabilities. **NEMS** contains specific beneficial nematodes which give rapid control of fungus gnats including, glasshouse sciarid in hydroponic environments or potted house plants. These pests are small 4 to 5 mm long dark brown flies with long legs and antennae. Fungus gnat larvae are slender (5 mm) with a distinct black head capsules and transparent body. Environments that are warm, moist and humid are preferred by both fungus gnats and sciarid flies. These pests feed on both decaying organic matter and living material such as root, root hairs and stalk tissue. Beneficial nematodes are used as both a preventative and control agents; it is non-toxic for humans and harmless for plants.

### PRODUCTS:

**NEMS** are available in two different packages:

5 million active nematodes, *Steinernema feltiae* (sufficient to treat 5-10m<sup>2</sup> or 50-100ft<sup>2</sup>)

50 million active nematodes, *Steinernema feltiae* (sufficient to treat 50-100m<sup>2</sup> or 500-1000ft<sup>2</sup>)

### TIME OF TREATMENT:

Beneficial nematodes must be applied when sciarid or fungus gnats are found around the plants or when a problem is expected. As a preventative, applications must be repeated every 6 weeks. As a control, nematodes should be applied in 2 week intervals until a decrease in pests are seen on yellow sticky cards. *If fungus gnats or sciarids are already present, it may take from 2-3 weeks before the number of adult gnats is reduced noticeably.* In order to obtain good results with this pesticide the regular repetition of some nematodes treatment is advised.

### PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS:

The following precaution should be observed for best results:

1. Store **NEMS** in a refrigerator 5°C (41°F) and for a maximum of 2 weeks; **do not freeze**.
2. Ensure the soil is moist before applying **NEMS**. Irrigate if necessary. The soil must not dry out at any time after treatment.
3. Soil temperatures should not fall below 10°C (50°F) for 14 days following treatment. At soil temperatures above 30°C (86°F), activity may be reduced.
4. Do not apply in bright sunshine. The best moments for application are in dark weather conditions and at night
5. In case of spraying, all fine filters (with diameters <1mm) must be removed from the spraying system, so that blocking of nematodes during application is avoided.
6. Do not use centrifugal pumps for preparation. The effect of those pumps may be fatal to the nematodes.

### APPLICATION:

1. Open beneficial nematode packages carefully. For **NEMS**, empty the package into a 1 gallon container of tepid water. Rinse small bag with water to release any nematodes.
2. Add tepid water and mix thoroughly until the suspension amount made will cover the treatment areas.
3. When applying **NEMS** to Flood Tables or other Hydroponic Systems DO NOT release nematodes into system reservoirs.
4. Nematodes can be applied with a watering can or hose end sprayer. Adding nematodes to drip system is NOT recommended.
5. Pour a small amount of beneficial nematode suspension onto each pot, cube, etc. The amount to pour should moisten the surface materials but not run through the pot. Mix concentrate before each addition to pot, cube, etc., this will ensure nematodes have not sunk to the bottom of suspension.
6. Use all **NEMS** suspension for one application over a 2-hour period.

### SPRAYING:

Spraying may be done with ordinary spraying equipment (**maximum spraying pressure 5 bar**). **Use a nozzle with an opening of at least 1mm.**

For further Information Contact: **NATURAL INSECT CONTROL**, 3737 Netherby Road, Stevensville, Ontario, L0S 1S0

905-382-2904; 905-382-4418 (Fax); [info@nicniagara.com](mailto:info@nicniagara.com)

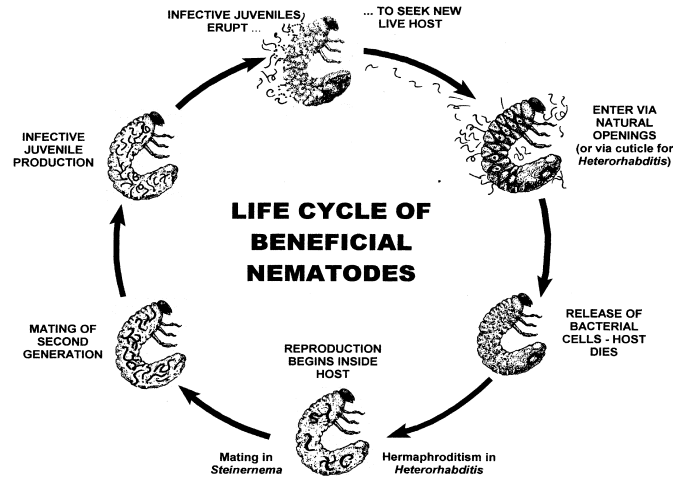
For further Information on all NIC Beneficial Insects go to [www.naturalinsectcontrol.com](http://www.naturalinsectcontrol.com)

Immediately after spraying, the crop must be rinsed with a great amount of water in order to make sure that the nematodes end up in the soil.

**COMPATIBILITY WITH CHEMICAL AGENTS AND OTHER BIOCONTROL AGENTS**

-In the soil the nematodes may be combined with most chemical agents. It stands to reason that nematicides are incompatible with nematodes. **Tank mixing of nematodes with pesticides is absolutely forbidden.**

-Do not use any type of nematodes with *Aphidoletes aphidimyza* (aphid control). These beneficials pupate in the soil.



**Phone: 905-382-2904; Email: [info@nicniagara.com](mailto:info@nicniagara.com) Please let NIC know within 24 hours upon receipt if there are any problems with your live insect order.**

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