



Handling and Application of Beneficial Nematodes (*Steinernema riobrave*)

Straining & Mixing: Nematodes should be separated from the gel before application to the soil.

1. Add about 8 oz. of water to contents of zip-loc bag.
2. Agitate the bag to break up the gel medium (10-15 seconds).
3. Pour contents of the bag (nematodes, gel & water) into a fine mesh strainer (like a tea strainer) held over a one-pint container.
4. Add an additional 8 oz. of water to the gel in the strainer and rinse well.
5. Discard the gel.
6. Pour the pint of collected water/nematode mix into a 5 gallon container.
7. Add water to fill container and stir well. This is the solution that will be added to sprayers.
8. Continue to stir/agitate frequently during application. This will prevent nematodes from settling on the bottom (which they will do fairly quickly) and to keep nematodes aerated (which they need to be).

Applying the Nematodes:

1. The best methods for applying nematodes are with a sprinkler-type watering can, hose-end sprayer or pressurized sprayer. Spray bottles are not recommended as their small mesh filters clog too easily and do not provide adequate coverage.
2. Once a sprayer is chosen, fill it with the nematode/water solution and apply to the treatment area. Refill the sprayer as needed to cover the full area being treated. ***A package of 5 million nematodes is enough to treat 1600 square feet of soil.***
3. Immediately after application, water the area down well. This helps the nematodes get down into the soil.

Application Note: For best results, apply during early morning or late afternoon. Avoid applications during the hottest and sunniest parts of the day.

Storage:

- Do not refrigerate. If you cannot apply them immediately, refreeze the ice pack and place in original package to keep the nematodes cool.
- Never place nematodes in direct sunlight or in very hot places, such as the trunk of a car.
- Nematodes on gel should be used as soon as possible.
- Once they are opened, they must be used immediately.

The nematodes will begin working for you as soon as they are settled in the soil and go looking for a meal. Never apply chemical nematicides after applying nematode applications.