Control of Pasture Mole Crickets with Beneficial Nematodes. (C03-adjei082933-Poster)

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Abstract:

Scapteriscus mole cricket nematodes (Steinernema scapterici) were strip-applied to pasture plots in triplicates in September 2000 to distribute 0, 312.5, 625.0, and 1250.0 million nematodes/ha in order to evaluate the efficacy of reduced nematode application rate on mole cricket control. Nematode infection in trapped mole crickets averaged 30, 50, 60, and 80% in spring 2001 with increasing nematode application rate, but 34% in spring 2002, regardless of nematode application rate. The nematodes were spread by infected mole crickets across the entire 10-ha bahiagrass pasture within 2 yr. Mole cricket numbers declined by 90% and grass canopy cover increased 300% (25 vs. 75% cover) within 2 yr.

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