



nemycel®

Biological Control of Mushroom Sciarids with *Steinernema feltiae*

AREA OF APPLICATION

Adult sciarids are small, black mosquitos, of 3 to 5 mm, with two slender antennae and long legs. They are vectors for fungal spores and mites and a nuisance for picking staff. Adults live for 7 days in which gravid females lay approx. 200 eggs in unspawned compost and casing soil. At mushroom growing temperatures, the life cycle takes about 4 weeks. The short life cycle together with the high reproduction rate can lead to an extremely high increase in insect numbers during the second and third flush. Main damage is caused by the larvae, feeding on growing mycelium and developing pinheads and buttons.

MODE OF ACTION

nemycel® contains the nematode *Steinernema feltiae* and controls the larval stages of sciarids. Infective juveniles actively search for sciarid larvae, enter through natural openings and invade the body cavity, where they release their symbiotic bacteria. The bacteria multiply and kill the insect within one day. The nematodes feed on the bacteria and propagate. Two weeks after application about 1,000 nematodes of the next generation emerge from one infected larva.

APPLICATION

nemycel® is applied to the casing layer as an aqueous suspension at 2 million nematodes per m². Splitting of the total dosage into two applications, the first at casing and the second with last watering, is most effective. **nemycel®** contains living organisms and works best if used as soon as possible after delivery. It may be stored at 2 - 8° C until the date of expiry. **nemycel®** is compatible with most fungicides such as SporGon and Vivando.

EFFICACY

Infected insects colour whitish-yellow. The first larvae die 1 day after application. Trial results from research stations in the Netherlands, Hungary, France and Belgium show reductions in sciarid numbers up to 80 %. Development of resistance is not expected. **nemycel®** is safe for beneficial insects, plants and humans.

**Further information needed?
Please contact us!
We will be happy to answer
your questions!**

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Damage

Sciarid larvae feed on growing mycelium and developing pinheads and buttons.

Preferred environment

Sciarid flies lay eggs in unspawned compost and casing soil.

The solution

nemycel® (*Steinernema feltiae*) is a natural enemy of sciarid larvae.

