

# SPORTNEM – GENERAL INFORMATION

## Which Sportnem?

Sportnem T (*Steinernema carpocapsae*) v. Leather Jackets

Sportnem H (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*) v. Chafer

## Pack size and application rates?

Sportnem T and H are supplied in 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> outer packs. Each outer contains 10 x 250 million individually sealed packets.

## What should I do upon receiving the Sportnem?

Immediately upon arrival, open and store the individual 250 million packets in the fridge until ready to use.

## Can I tell if my nematodes are bad when opening the packets?

If refrigerated between 2-6°C and kept in the dark, Sportnem nematodes should be fine for 4+ weeks. When you open a packet the smell should be slightly malty. If bad, the smell will be rotten – however, this should not happen if stored correctly and used by the end date.

## What are the key application concerns?

Refrigeration/Maintaining agitation/Soil moisture – before and after application/Applying at the correct time to suit the larval stage/UV.

Follow the instructions on the label.

## How does a nematode find the pest?

Depending on the nematode, some will lie in ambush (Sportnem T), whilst the other will actively seek out the pest (Sportnem H).

## How many applications do I need to make? Why do I need to make more than one?

Leatherjackets tend to have a more concentrated window when the grubs are susceptible to the nematode. Sportnem T is a nematode that lies in ambush, so uses less energy, leading to a longer active life. This means only one or two applications may be needed.

Chafers will be laying eggs over a longer window, so 2 – 3 applications of Sportnem H are recommended to give high percentage of success.

Allow 2-4 weeks between applications depending on the level of infestation.

## How do I know if it has been successful?

The simplest way is to wait 7-10 days after application and then inspect the larvae. You should start to see them changing colour. This is not always the standard red/brown, but can be a dull, grey colour. A quicker check is the mealworm test.

## Mealworm test?

Put some mealworms into a pot containing growing media. Apply the nematodes as per application instructions. Move the pot to a dark, warm area and keep moist. After 24 - 48 h, examine the effect the nematodes have on the mealworms. This is a quick and simple way to demonstrate efficacy. However, these conditions result in a more rapid response than that which occurs in the field.

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## Is it worth applying with an adjuvant?

Definitely, however, the most important reason is that the nematodes, being very small, can get 'stranded' within a water droplet. This will reduce their ability to spread out and establish.

## Can I co-apply with a fungicide/growth regulator?

Sportnem nematodes have a protective bacterial sheath around them, which will protect them with most co-applications. However, avoid adding concentrate to concentrate prior to diluting.

## Can I co-apply both Sportnem T and Sportnem H if both pests are present?

Not a problem. Just mix and apply. However, different nematodes are not compatible long-term. This means that we will not supply both nematodes in the same packs.

## How do I know when it is the best time to start applying?

Simply lift the turf to see the presence of the pest.

Watch out for the adults. When the crane flies start appearing, they will be laying eggs. Two weeks later, these eggs will turn into larvae (usually around mid-September). Young larvae are more susceptible to nematodes. Chafer adults will be found feeding on local trees and shrubs in May/June. These will start laying eggs in July.

Best results are achieved when application starts at first signs of larvae, rather than retrospectively.

## What is the difference between *Steinernema carpocapsae* and *Steinernema feltiae*?

*Steinernema carpocapsae* is a smaller nematode, and therefore able to penetrate the pest more efficiently, which in turn will lead to a better mortality percentage. It is also carrying a completely different bacterium. This is backed up by independent research. Simply put, *S. carpocapsae* will achieve considerably better results v. *S. feltiae* when applied during the optimum application period.

## Will Sportnem H be effective against all species of Chafer grub?

Each Chafer species is slightly different. Sportnem H is excellent against the main pests of the Welsh Chafer and Garden Chafer.

## Which product would you advise against Bibionid Flies? Sportnem H

## Is there any difference between Koppert's and the competitors' products?

Apart from the fact that it is recommended to use *S. carpocapsae* (Sportnem T) v. leatherjackets, the production processes are fairly similar. Koppert, being the largest manufacturer/supplier of beneficial predators in the world, believe that we have a more consistent product, which is backed up by our in-house quality/audit controls.

## Will I need additional applications in the spring?

The optimum period is late summer, when the larvae are small and close to the surface. If correct applications are made at this time, then the need for additional spring applications are minimal. In late summer, we can expect mortality rates of up to 100%; in the spring this will only get up to around 35%. Spring applications are not preferable due to larva size, soil temperature, larva depth in the soil profile and cavities. The larger chafer larvae will form pockets of air around them, which the nematode will find difficult/impossible to cross.

## Can I see the nematodes in the spray solution? Diluted, the nematodes are visible with a x10 lens.

**Can I apply using a Dosatron?** Yes, the nematodes are remarkably adaptable to most standard application methods. Simply follow the instructions on the label.