

## Nematode Management for Urban Lawns

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There may be a hope for residential lawns in the fight against nematodes.

Nematodes are unsegmented roundworms, different from earthworms and other familiar worms found in the soil. There are many kinds of nematodes living in soil and most can only be seen using a microscope. Most of these are beneficial but, there are also plant-parasitic nematodes that feed on plants.

The current EDIS publication, "Nematode Management in Residential Lawns", states "Because of risks and environmental concerns **there are currently no toxic nematicides that are labeled for use on established home lawns.**

This information is going to change with the introduction of "bionematicides for Florida Lawns and landscape". Dr. Billy Crow of the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology has a couple of recommendations:

**Nortica**: Nortica™ is a new turfgrass bionematicide from Bayer. The active ingredient in Nortica is the bacterium *Bacillus firmus* strain I-1582. University of Florida research has shown this bionematicide to be effective in protecting turfgrass roots from nematode damage when it is applied properly. However, timing is critical with this product to achieve good results.

**MustGrow Invest**: MustGrow Invest™ is a bionematicides derived from certain mustard plants grown in Canada. The high levels of glucosinolates from the plant are acted upon by enzymes, they produce a chemical, allyl isothiocyanate or AITC which is a nematicidal fumigant. It is labeled for use on turfgrass and ornamentals. It is OMRI-approved as an organic product.

These products may be available from John Deere Landscapes, Pro Source One or may be applied by local landscape pest control companies.