

Q&A FOR GOLF COURSES AND RECREATIONAL SPORTS TURF

Golf courses and other recreational-sports turf get used consistently and can take a beating. These high use areas are also susceptible to significant pest damage and need special treatments.

Occasionally golf courses and recreational-sports turf undergo special treatment applications that help ensure their ability to continue looking great year after year under rigorous use, changing weather conditions and attacks from natural pests. These applications require that the treatment area be closed for a short period of time. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions relating to treatments with Curfew® soil fumigant on golf courses and other recreational-sports turf.



45 days after treatment

QUESTION: What is being done? What is that odor?

Answer: We are applying Curfew® soil fumigant to the turf to control a particularly troublesome pest—plant parasitic nematodes. These destructive pests live in the soil underneath the turf and feed on the roots. That smell is the active ingredient in Curfew, which should go away shortly after application. Curfew fully dissipates within 24 – 48 hours and becomes inert.

QUESTION: What are nematodes?

Answer: Plant parasitic nematodes are slender, legless, transparent roundworms varying in size from 1/300 to 1/3 of an inch. They are parasites that must feed on living plant tissue, like turf grass roots. Some species feed on turf by inserting a “stylet” into turf root cells and sucking out the cell contents. Others feed on the outer surface of turf roots. A single female nematode may produce up to 500 eggs, which can take years to hatch!

QUESTION: What is a soil fumigant?

Answer: Soil fumigants are chemicals that are injected as liquids into the soil. The liquid volatilizes (changes from liquid to gas) and moves through the soil to kill targeted pests. The importance of soil fumigation in the control of plant parasitic nematodes is well documented and have been used for decades. Unchecked, these pests can severely damage the turf.

QUESTION: Why is it necessary?

Answer: Even with proper levels of nutrients, water and oxygen, turf growth and playability can decline over time due to nematode damage. They have the potential to kill large areas of turf. On a golf course, for example, this ruins the course’s appearance and interferes with play. Additionally, nematode damage weakens turf, making it more susceptible to other pests and diseases.

QUESTION: How often should Curfew be applied?

Answer: Curfew should be applied once annually.

QUESTION: Are plant parasitic nematodes harmful to people or pets?

Answer: No. There are many different species of nematodes. The plant parasitic nematodes targeted by the application of Curfew do not pose a risk to people or pets, but can cause significant turf damage. Two of the most troublesome species are Sting and Lance nematodes.

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QUESTION: How does Curfew work?

Answer: Curfew® soil fumigant is injected below the soil surface to effectively control a wide variety of nematodes. Curfew is a “true” fumigant, meaning it moves through the soil profile on its own to create a protection zone around turf roots. When Curfew comes into contact with a nematode, the nematode absorbs a lethal dose and dies.

QUESTION: Can Curfew be a risk to humans?

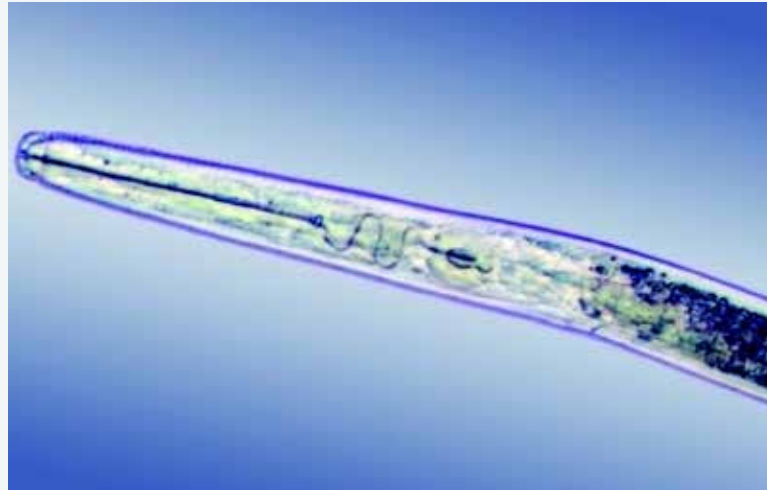
Answer: The application process is designed to keep Curfew in the soil, so that it will not come into contact with people or pets. If used incorrectly, prolonged exposure can cause health problems. That’s why it can only be applied by specially trained certified applicators, who take specific precautions to limit the chance of exposure. Curfew only remains active for 24-48 hours and then becomes inert.

QUESTION: Who are the people doing the application?

Answer: Curfew® soil fumigant is a restricted use pesticide and by law can only be applied by trained, licensed professional applicators using specialized equipment.

QUESTION: Can Curfew be a risk to fish?

Answer: There are no reports of the active ingredient in Curfew® soil fumigant killing fish or birds. Because Curfew is applied below the soil surface and immediately converts to a gas, there is extremely low risk that it would ever migrate to bodies of water.



QUESTION: Should I stay indoors during application?

Answer: No. It is not necessary to remain indoors. As specified on the product label, applications will have a buffer zone of at least 30 feet away from the owners property line.

QUESTION: When is it safe to return to the treated area?

Answer: You can return to the treated areas 24 hours after the application has been completed, by which time the active ingredient will have dissipated.

QUESTION: Is Curfew used to control other pests?

Answer: Currently, Curfew is being used to manage nematodes. Research has shown that mole crickets, grubs and other soilborne pests present at the time of application are controlled by Curfew, and mole cricket control has been added to our current product label.

QUESTION: Is additional information available?

Answer: Yes, for more information, call Southern Soils Turf Solutions at (321) 229-1710 or visit their website at SouthernSoils.com.