



Handling and Application of Beneficial Nematodes *Heterorhabditis indica*

- **Do not refrigerate. Apply as soon as possible after receipt.** -

If you cannot apply them immediately, refreeze the ice pack and place in original package to keep the nematodes cool.

1. Nematodes should be separated from the gel before application to the soil:
 - Add about ½ pint of water to contents of zip-loc bag.
 - Agitate the bag for 10-15 seconds.
 - Pour contents of the bag (nematodes, gel & water) into a fine mesh strainer (like a tea strainer) held over a one-pint container.
 - Add an additional ½ pint of water to the gel in the strainer and rinse well.
 - Discard the gel.
2. Further dilute water/nematodes mixture:
 - Pour the pint of collected water/nematode mix into a 5 gallon container.
 - Add water to fill container and stir well.
 - Continue to stir or agitate frequently during application. This will prevent nematodes from settling on the bottom (which they will do fairly quickly) and to keep nematodes aerated (which they need to be).
3. Apply nematodes to soil:
 - ***A package of 5 million nematodes mixed with 5 gallons of water is enough to treat 218 square feet of soil. For beekeepers, this is enough to treat around 10 hives.***
 - When treating hive infestations, do not apply nematodes directly into the hive. They should be applied to the soil underneath and around the hive.
 - The best methods for applying nematodes are with a sprinkler-type watering can, hose-end sprayer or pressurized sprayer. Spray bottles are not recommended as their small mesh filters clog too easily.
 - For best results, avoid the hottest and sunniest parts of the day and apply early morning or late afternoon. Directly after a rain is also a good time.
 - Immediately after application, water the area down well. This helps the nematodes get down into the soil.
4. Storage of nematodes:
 - Never place nematodes in direct sunlight or in very hot places, such as the trunk of a car.
 - Nematodes on gel should be used as soon as possible.
 - Once they are opened, they must be used immediately.

The nematodes will begin working for you as soon as they are settled in the soil and go looking for a meal. Never apply chemical nematicides after applying nematode applications.