Handling and Application of Beneficial Nematodes (*Steinernema riobrave*)

**Straining & Mixing:** Nematodes should be separated from the gel before application to the soil.

1. Add about 8 oz. of water to contents of zip-loc bag.
2. Agitate the bag to break up the gel medium (10-15 seconds).
3. Pour contents of the bag (nematodes, gel & water) into a fine mesh strainer (like a tea strainer) held over a one-pint container.
4. Add an additional 8 oz. of water to the gel in the strainer and rinse well.
5. Discard the gel.
6. Pour the pint of collected water/nematode mix into a 5 gallon container.
7. Add water to fill container and stir well. This is the solution that will be added to sprayers.
8. Continue to stir/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).

**Applying the Nematodes:**

1. 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 and do not provide adequate coverage.
2. Once a sprayer is chosen, fill it with the nematode/water solution and apply to the treatment area. Refill the sprayer as needed to cover the full area being treated. **A package of 5 million nematodes is enough to treat 1600 square feet of soil.**
3. Immediately after application, water the area down well. This helps the nematodes get down into the soil.

**Application Note:** For best results, apply during early morning or late afternoon. Avoid applications during the hottest and sunniest parts of the day.

**Storage:**

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