



Introducing In-Vivo Nematodes:

A New BCA Option for Organic Production

February 2016

When it comes to use of biological control agents (BCAs) for pest control, organic growers lead the way. One easy-to-use BCA, the beneficial nematode, *Steinernema feltiae*, controls fungus gnats and serves as an effective component of thrips control programs.

The challenge for organic growers wanting to use *S. feltiae* is that some certifiers don't allow the gel carrier used by our industry's favorite nematode products. Griffin is pleased to announce a solution to this problem: **Sentry nematodes**.

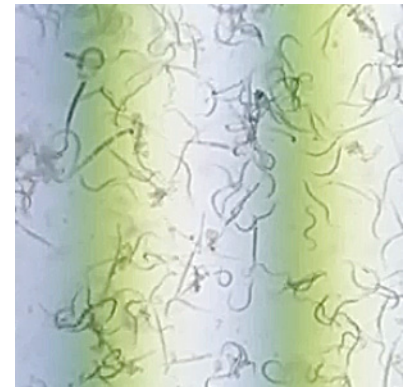
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Sentry contains *S. feltiae* nematodes produced using in-vivo methods, which means the nematodes are produced in a biological host. The nematodes are harvested from this production system and shipped as a preparation of pure infective juveniles on a natural sponge. Infective juveniles are the life stage that attacks target pests. Since this preparation consists of 100% infective juveniles, a rate reduction is realized when using Sentry: One sponge of 35

million nematodes will treat 1,100 square feet when applied as a drench. Treatment areas and stock preparation for the three Sentry package sizes are listed below.

Another distinct benefit of the in-vivo preparation relates to ease of use: The Sentry nematodes will pass through a 100-mesh screen, which supports boom application for most systems. This provides a tremendous advantage for young plant producers, as most screens in boom nozzles can stay in place during application.



Sentry nematodes under magnification

Stock preparation varies slightly for Sentry, since the sponge requires some handling to release the nematodes. Instead of dissolving a gel preparation in the stock tank, the Sentry sponge is added to the stock tank and gently rinsed to release the nematodes. Once the stock is prepared, Sentry nematodes are used just like other *S. feltiae* products. All *S. feltiae* are living organisms; stock must be used quickly to prevent the nematodes from drowning.

Sentry is well suited for use in organic environments, controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) – including greenhouses and indoor growing operations – boom applications and interiorscapes. The package sizes of Sentry are ideal for small production spaces. The smallest size, a sponge carrying 25 million nematodes, is an especially good fit for interiorscape use, when injector systems are often lacking and water supplies can be challenging.

Griffin Greenhouse Supplies is the exclusive supplier of Sentry nematodes to the U.S. market. If you're an organic grower or would like to apply nematodes more easily through a boom, ask your Griffin sales representative about Sentry nematodes or check in with GGSPRO for more details regarding use.

Featured Products

Product	Area treated	Stock volume for injection at 1:100	Stock volume for siphon at 1:15 to 1:20	Item No.
Sentry 25-million sponge	800 sq ft	0.33 gal	1.6 gal	70-7025
Sentry 35-million sponge	1,100 sq ft	0.5 gal	2.5 gal	70-7035
Sentry 50-million sponge	1,600 sq ft	0.7 gal	3.5 gal	70-7050