Controlling Mole Crickets Naturally

Today on Gardening in a Minute: controlling mole crickets naturally.

Mole crickets are a common problem on Florida turf, and especially like to munch on bahia and bermuda grass.

There are natural ways to control mole crickets. Homeowners can apply beneficial nematodes, or tiny worms, to their lawns. These nematodes can be purchased from vendors and sprayed in a water solution onto lawns.

The “mole cricket nematodes” should be applied to moist soil in the spring or fall, when the adults are most plentiful. Once the nematodes are in the soil, they enter the mole crickets’ mouths, killing them with a bacterium that they carry.

The nematodes’ offspring enter the soil to infect other mole crickets. The nematodes can survive, multiply, and spread as long as there are mole crickets. They’re not harmful to people, animals, or landscape plants.

For more information on mole crickets, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.