



# Bayer

## Chemical Control

We're experiencing a lot of industry changes that mean we're losing key actives in our armoury against pests and diseases. And this month, we see an active that's been a vital tool in leatherjacket control leave the market for good. Chlorpyrifos will be illegal to apply as of 31 August 2015, unless you have existing stock of a product that still has approval.

Since 21 May it's been illegal to purchase chlorpyrifos containing products for use on managed amenity turf. The active is being withdrawn at a key time of year, when greenkeepers and turf managers are commonly needing to treat against leatherjackets, during September and October.

However, Merit® Turf from Bayer is a proven alternative for the control of leatherjackets. And even though it's lost its approval, distributors can sell it up until 30 April 2016 (although Bayer cannot sell it after 31 October 2015). Turf managers have until October 2016 to use up stocks of Merit® Turf. Therefore it's possible to treat for leatherjackets in autumn 2015 and autumn 2016.

### **Cultural and biological leatherjacket control**

The dryer the environment, the less chance that the leatherjacket eggs have of surviving, because the eggs will desiccate and become unviable.

It's good news if we have a very dry September, because a large percentage of eggs potentially dry out. So to limit the egg survival rate, it's important to reduce the use of irrigation.

The adult crane fly lays eggs on the soil and turf surface from August to October, and if they're effectively controlled, it'll mean that populations are significantly reduced the following year.

Biological treatment can be employed, in the form of nematodes, but these can be difficult to apply successfully.

### **Chemical control**

The autumn window for applying Merit® Turf is during September and October.

For optimum control, the product needs to be applied when turf is still actively growing. This is because Merit® Turf has a systemic mode of action. It is taken up by the grass and is ingested by the leatherjackets when they feed on the grass plant.



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Active grass growth is inextricably linked to soil temperature, and if there's a cold snap, the leatherjackets will burrow further into the ground, and full control won't be achieved. This is why, if you need to use chemical control, applying it to actively growing grass is crucial.

### **Pest and disease factsheets**

Bayer is producing a number of factsheets covering pests and diseases that contain advice on the best way to approach control. If you would like to receive copies, get in touch with the Bayer Turf Solutions team at:

[turfsolutions@bayer.com](mailto:turfsolutions@bayer.com)

