

Positioning of drippers for application of Nemasys® L (*Steinernema kraussei*) to pots



Nemasys® L contains the insect killing nematode *Steinernema kraussei*. It is extensively used in the soft fruit industry for control of black vine weevil (BVW, *Otiorhynchus sulcatus*). Application is very important in order to achieve the best possible results as misapplication is the most common reason for lower than expected pest control.

Drip irrigation is a good method of application, and the labour costs are lower than for drench sprays. Water movement during application is important in achieving good control. Although nematodes are able to move through the environment, an advantage they have over chemicals and *Metarhizium anisopliae*, the water used during application can be used to manipulate the position of nematodes in the soil to provide faster results. Positioning irrigation drippers close to the base of the plant (Figure 1) will give better application than if the dripper is near to the edge of the pot (Figure 2). Good dripper position will ensure more targeted application, delivering the nematodes closer to the target pest.

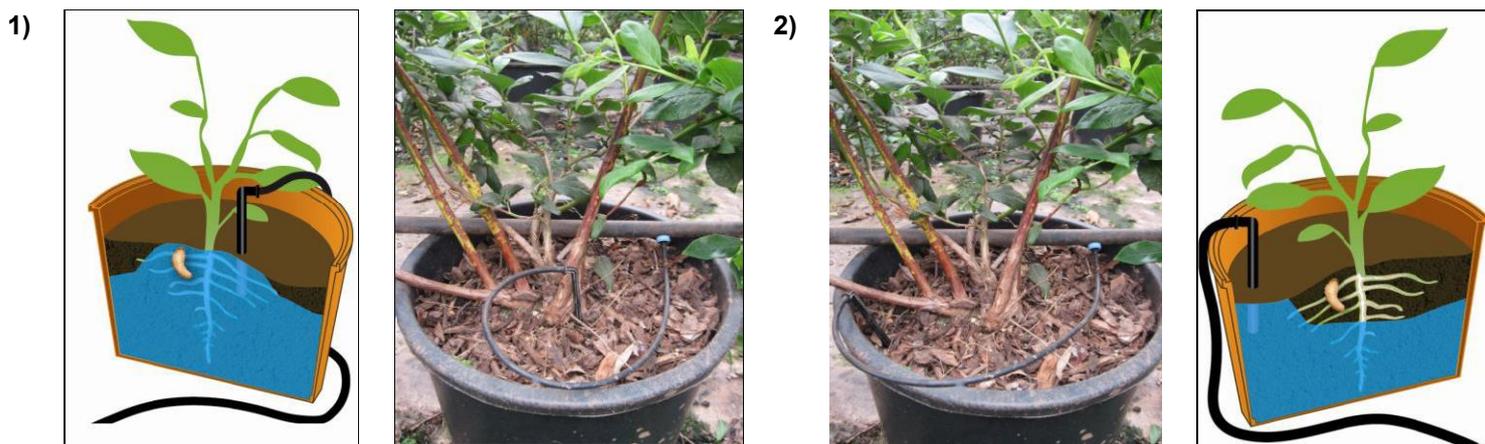


Figure 1) Optimal positioning of dripper close to the base of blueberry plant. Figure 2) Undesirable positioning of dripper far from base of blueberry plant.

Water released from a dripper spreads down and sideways through media. Horizontal spread of nematodes can be improved by repeated short bursts of irrigation or by applying the nematodes to already wet soil. Positioning the drippers close to the base of the plant and also encouraging horizontal spread of irrigation water will give better control. This is especially important in blueberries where the BVW larvae girdle the stem of the plant just below the soil surface.

Use Guidelines: Soil drench

Product: Nemasys® L (*Steinernema kraussei*)

Nematode application rate: 500 000 nematodes/m²

Application Volume: 4 litres/m²

Application regularity: As needed through the seasons depending on pest pressure.

Application conditions:

- For application to strawberry plants, Nemasys® L should be used at 25 000 nematodes per plant.

BASF Agricultural Specialities Ltd
Harwood Industrial Estate
Harwood Road Littlehampton
West Sussex, BN17 7AU
Tel: +44(0) 1903 732 323