



Research Driven,
Proven Results®

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

HOW TO IMPROVE SOIL STRUCTURE USING GRIGG RHIZO AIDE™

GRIGG Rhizo Aide is a unique granular nutrient formulation designed to improve turfgrass color and quality and improve its playability. GRIGG Rhizo Aide reduces the amount of soil brought to the surface, as earthworm castings, on heavy textured soils and/or low or poorly drained areas. The active ingredient of GRIGG Rhizo Aide, oil seed meal, discourages earthworm activity at the surface, thus reducing the number of castings per unit area and thereby improving playability and aesthetics.

2016 Field Trial

In 2016, we conducted a rigorous research project to determine 1.) Optimum rates of GRIGG Rhizo Aide and 2.) The total number of applications required to effectively reduce castings.

Results

All GRIGG Rhizo Aide treatments provided a significant reduction in earthworm casts in the spring season when conditions promoted strong earthworm population growth. The high rate (6 lbs/M) of GRIGG Rhizo Aide produced statistically significant reductions seven days after treatment (DAT).

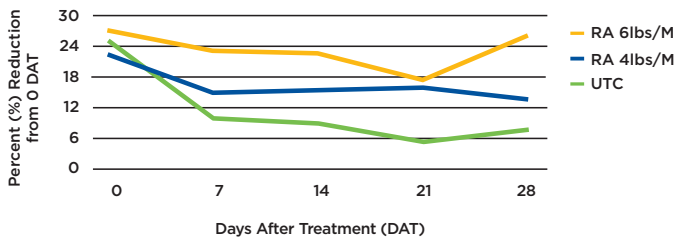


Figure 1. Effect of the 4 and 6 lb/M GRIGG Rhizo Aide (RA) rate on number of earthworm castings over the first month of the trial

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After one (1) application, the 6 lbs/M treatments were capable of reducing castings by 49-70% (average 61%), while the 4lb/M rate reduced castings by an average of 48%.

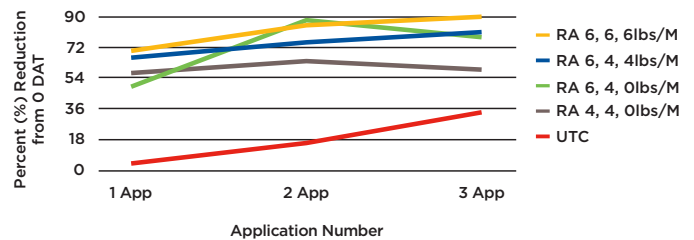


Figure 2. Percent (%) reduction in earthworm castings after each application

Conclusion

All GRIGG Rhizo Aide treatments provided significant suppression of earthworm castings and within 7 DAT. A higher rate (6 lbs/M) early in the season had the greatest long-term effect, and reductions outpaced those that received 4 lbs/M at 0 DAT. GRIGG Rhizo Aide must be irrigated into the soil profile or, better yet, applied prior to natural rainfall (>0.125 inches). This project provides insight into the best programmatic approach designed to improve turf quality and improve playability in a cost effective way. Future work may evaluate and observe the effects of fall applications on casting reduction in the spring.

