

Nemaslug 2.0

A biological product for the control of slugs containing the parasitic nematode, *Phasmarhabditis californica*

Nemaslug 2.0 provides highly effective slug control.

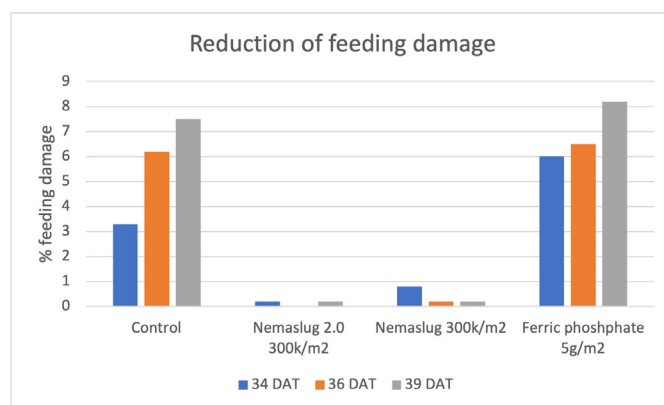
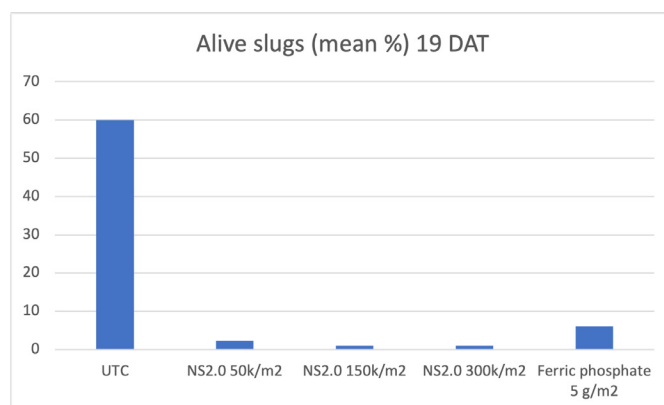
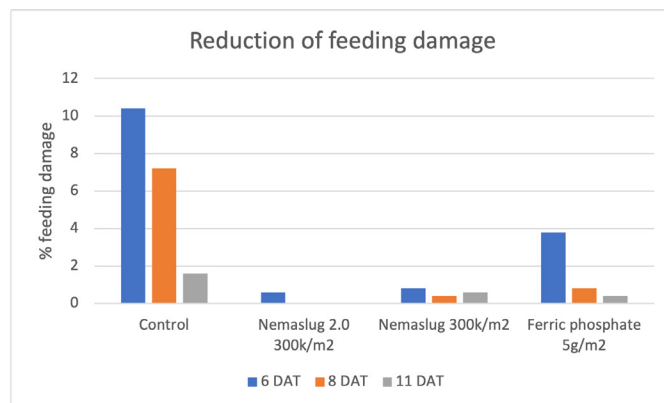
Infection by Nemaslug 2.0 results in feeding inhibition prior to the infected slugs dying. This is a key component for using the product and means it can be applied at the same timings as conventional slug pellets.

In standardised trials conducted under laboratory conditions the performance of Nemaslug 2.0 was confirmed to be comparable to more widely known Nemaslug and ferric phosphate slug pellets.

To help standardise test conditions semi-field trials were conducted to evaluate the actual slug mortality within a test area, these demonstrated that Nemaslug 2.0 provided effective population control over a range of dose rates when assessed 20 days after application. Therefore, while feeding inhibition provides rapid control benefits Nemaslug 2.0 will also impact the slug population in the longer term.

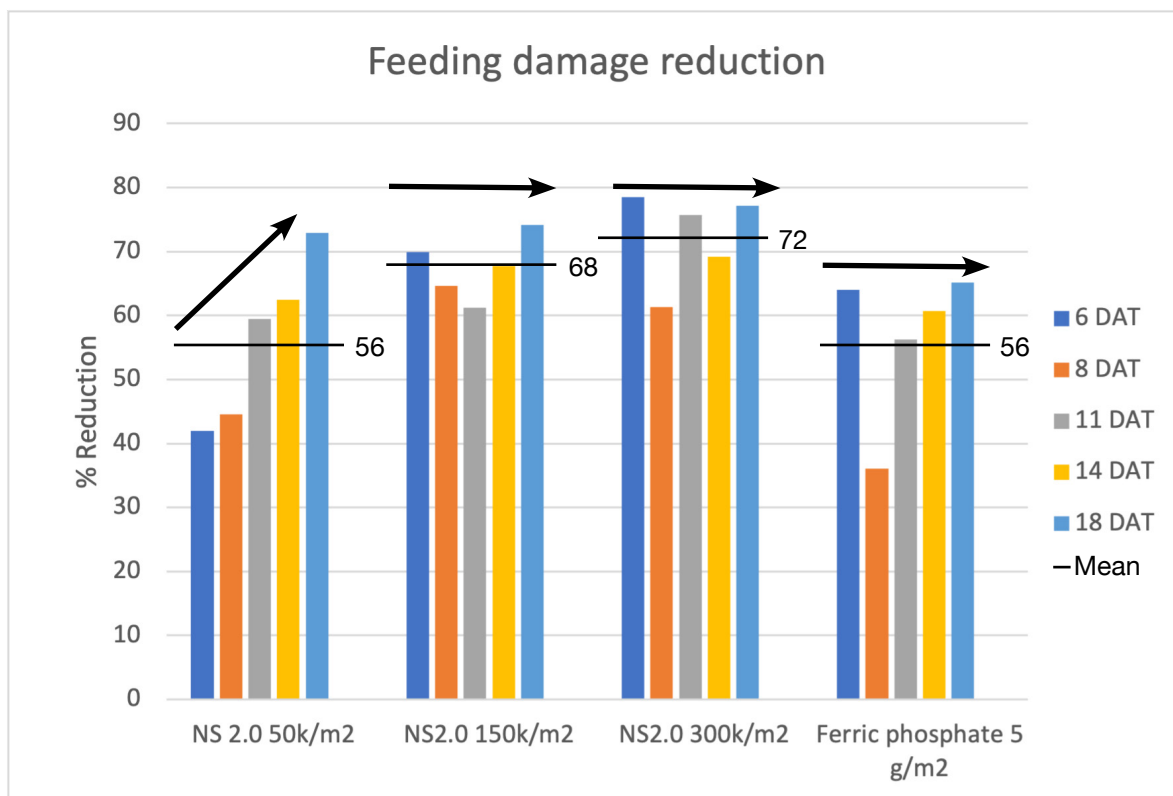
Looking further at the impact of reducing slug feeding activity an application of Nemaslug 2.0 can be shown to be effective for up to 40 days following application. This supports the view that Nemaslug 2.0 can provide control for up to 5 weeks – particularly evident at higher dose rates.

However, being a biological product performance is related to and impacted by a range of variables – some being easier to influence than others. Performance can be shown to link to dose rate. The speed of reduction in feeding damage is known to increase with increasing dose. As shown in the diagram; at the higher doses feeding damage is reduced more rapidly.



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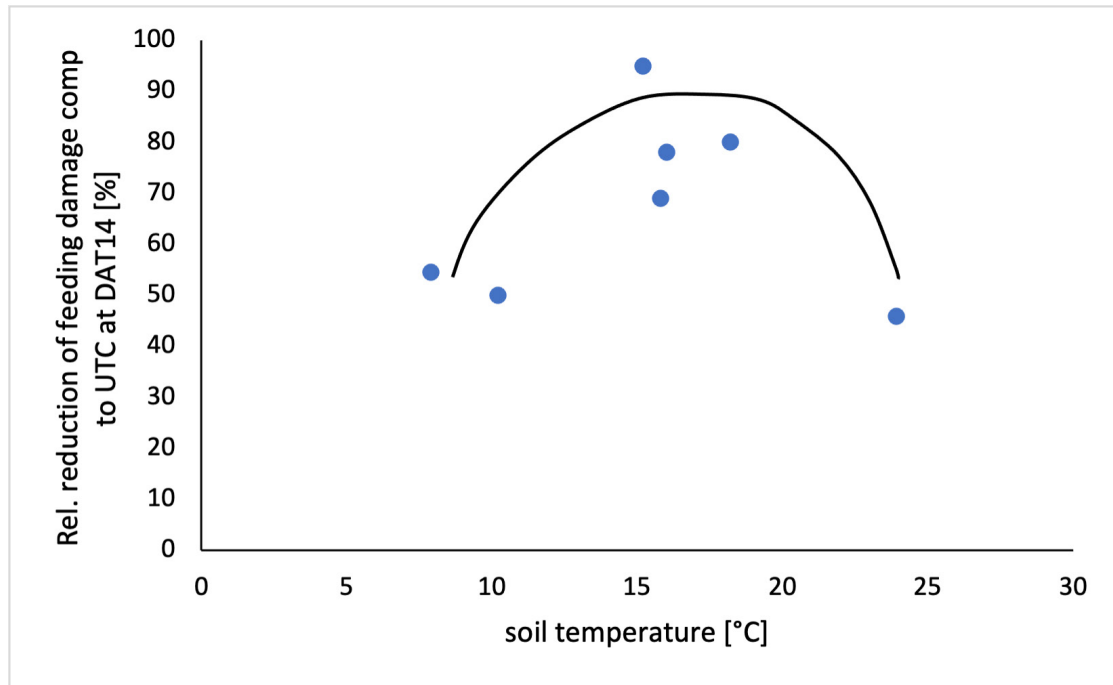


The dose rate of Nemaslug 2.0 has some flexibility. Higher doses are recommended for more rapid reduction in feeding damage. An option that is often adopted is ‘repeated lower dose applications’ – where a lower dose is applied at more frequent intervals (IRO 7 – 10 days) to top up the control. This results in a range of recommended rates as below:

Application method	Application volume	Dose
Outdoor and protected horticulture	1 litre/m ²	50,000/m ²
		150,000/m ²
		300,000/m ²

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As a biological Nemaslug 2.0 is influenced by soil temperature and is effective over a range from 5 – 25°C with an optimum of around 15 – 16°C, which coincides with the range that slugs are also highly active.

Other environmental variables to bear in mind when using Nemaslug 2.0:

Moisture: Nemaslug 2.0 is a soil dwelling nematode – and there is evidence it will survive in leaf litter and compost. To move around in their preferred environment nematodes need moisture. Therefore, after an application of Nemaslug 2.0 ensure the soil or substrate remains moist (to the level you would expect following an irrigation application) for as long as possible – the longer the better but for at least 1 hour. But clearly these requirements will depend on conditions at the time.

Also – avoid applications in direct sunlight and prevent the nematodes from becoming desiccated, so if the application has been made to foliage, wash

the nematodes off with irrigation to ensure they reach the soil. Applying Nemaslug 2.0 is fine to carry out during rain – so where this is appropriate this is an ideal time to apply. Otherwise, afternoon or early evening is a good time to apply as conditions cool the soil/substrate will remain moist for longer and there is reduced risk of UV light exposure and desiccation.

Remember to remove fine filters from application equipment (50 mesh or less) and maintain agitation prior to application. Nematodes will settle out in still water and could impact the distribution at application. Therefore, apply straight after mixing and don't leave them in a tank for long periods of time. If applying as a field spray coarse droplets will be best for getting the nematodes to the soil.

Lastly – remember Nemaslug 2.0 is a living organism so carefully considering its environmental requirements will help with understanding how to provide the best conditions for it to perform.