

# Microbial Products in Turfgrass

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# Terms

- Fertilizer
- Biological pesticide (Biopesticide)
- Inoculant
- Rhizosphere
- Fungi
- Bacteria
- Rhizosphere



# Fertilizer

- guaranteed analysis (%N-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-K<sub>2</sub>O)
- state tested, state laws apply
- if g.a. missing can only be sold as soil amendment or conditioner



# LAWN & GARDEN FERTILIZER 13-13-13 PLUS SULFUR

## GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Total Nitrogen (N) .....	13%
10.6% Ammoniacal Nitrogen	
2.4% Urea Nitrogen	
Available Phosphate (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ) .....	13%
Soluble Potash (K <sub>2</sub> O) .....	13%
Sulfur (S) .....	4%
4% Combined Sulfur (S)	

Nutrients Sources: Urea, Ammonium Phosphate,  
Ammonium Sulfate, Muriate of Potash.

## FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY LAWN — GRASSES

1. Apply only when grass is dry.
2. For best results apply—early spring—June—early fall
3. Apply 6 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn at each application
4. Spread fertilizer evenly.
5. Water generously immediately following application

## FLOWERS — VEGETABLES

1. Apply annually in early spring.

# COMPOST

**Temperate, moisture controlled finished composted product.**

- SINGLE SOURCE BEEF MANURE.
- ORDERLESS, SAFE TO USE ANYWHERE.
- COMPOSTED AEROBICALLY, AND WEED SEEDS ARE DESTROYED.

# Biological pesticides (Biopesticides)

- products that claim to directly control pests.
- regulated by the EPA.
- specific target, specific pesticidal claim.



September 18, 2009. *Lawn & Landscape:*

Econem Receives EPA Registration as First *Pasteuria* Product for Sting Nematode Control in Turf.

*Pasteuria* Bioscience has received EPA registration for Econem biological nematicide for control of sting nematodes in turf. This slide is not an endorsement or critique of this particular product. It is merely an example of an EPA registered biological product.



## **ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENT**

### **Turfgrass Stress Relief and Biostimulant with Beneficial Trichoderma Fungi**

#### **RELIEF FROM NEMATODE INFESTATION STRESS**

##### **Active Ingredients By Weight:**

**CYOPERLO, BIOSTIMULANTS, HUMATES & TRICHODERMA..... 70%**

**Inert Ingredients..... 30%**

##### **Directions For Use:**

Product can be sprayed by a tank sprayer or approved hose end sprayer. Irrigate with a minimum of 1/8" of water immediately following application. Product performs best when injected subsurface into the root zone.

##### **Recommended Application Rates:**

Four(4) to Six(6) Gallons per acre is recommended for fine turf. The Six(6) Gallon rate should be used for heavy infestation or severe turf stress and damage. A rate of 16 ounces per 1000 square feet should be used for home lawns and commercial properties. There are no limitations on reapplication.

##### **Environmental Hazards:**

There are no known environmental hazards associated with the use of this product.

##### **Personal Hazards:**

Poses no danger to humans or animals (see precautionary statements).

NOT a biopesticide.



# Inoculants

- term often applied to a microbial product that claims to improve general turf health.
- often diverse mixtures of bacteria or fungi.



**Active Ingredients by Weight: (This Product is Not A Plant Food)**

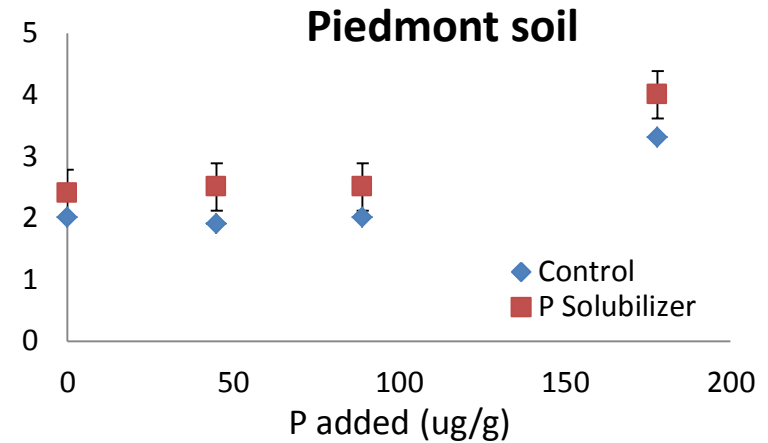
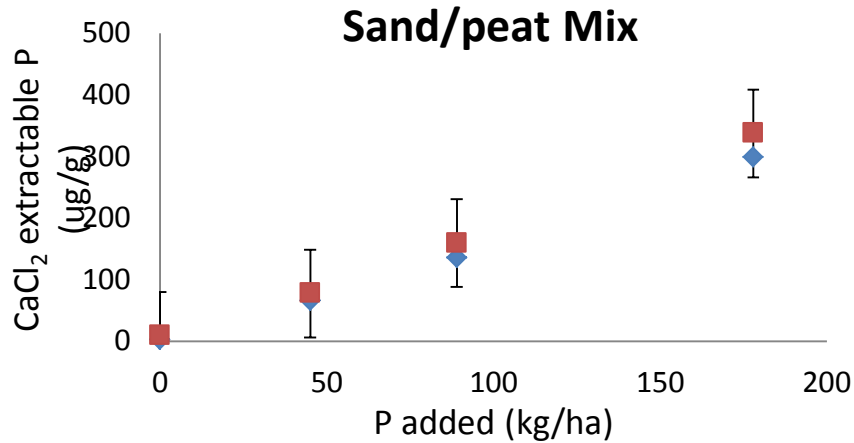
Natural Sugars, Sugar Extract, Humecants, Trichoderma, Beneficial Microbes,  
Naturally Occurring Vitamins, Pantothenic Acid, Riboflavin, Fulvic Acid, Maganese,  
Iron and Ascophyllum, Yucca Schidigera, Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria and Phosphorus  
Solubilizing Bacteria: 70% Inert Ingredients: 30%

**Directions Follow**

# GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

## 0-0-3

<b>Ingredients</b>	<b>% by Weight</b>
Iron as Fe .....	10%
(77% EDTA)	
Humates and Humic Acids .....	10%
Cold Water Kelp .....	8%
Natural Sugars (sucrose), Vitamins, (B-Complexes, K) Amino Acids and .....	5%
<b>Beneficial Bacteria</b>	
Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria .....	App. 15 billion/lb.
Phosphorus Solubilizing Bacteria .....	App. 30 billion/lb.
3% Potassium ( $K_2O$ ) derived from Humate and Kelp	



Effect of inclusion of a P solubilizing bacteria on extractable soil P.

2 34

USE BEFORE DATE STAMPED ABOVE

**inoculant**

- INCREASES YIELDS
- IMPROVES QUALITY
- BUILDS UP SOIL FERTILITY

#### DIRECTIONS

Use no water for planter box application

SCATTER INOCULANT OVER TOP OF SEED IN HOPPER.  
MIX LIGHTLY INTO TOP INCH OF SEED. RUN STICK  
TO BOTTOM OF HOPPER SEVERAL TIMES. PLANT.

USE ONLY FOR SEEDS SPECIFIED ON FRONT PANEL.  
DO NOT USE AFTER DATE AT TOP OF THIS PANEL.

#### GUARANTEE

Use UNICO INOCULANT according to directions BEFORE EXPIRATION DATE. UNICO Inoculant, when packed contains sufficient living bacteria to inoculate the kind and amount of seed stated on front panel. Under normal conditions it will form beneficial nodules on the roots of plant for which this inoculant is intended. However, due to the many factors beyond our control after UNICO Inoculant leaves the laboratory we will not in any way be responsible for the crop.

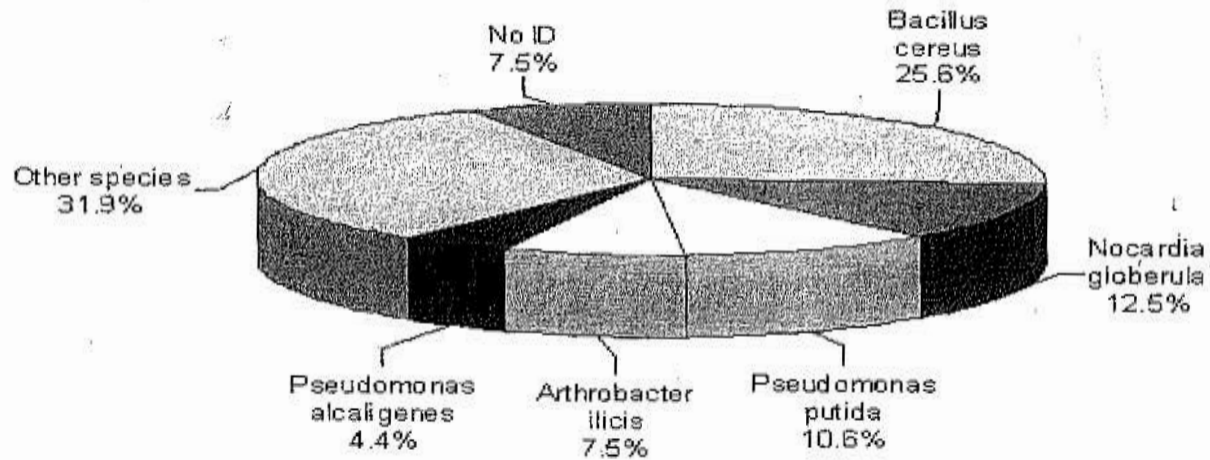
# Symbiotic N Fixation NOT in Turfgrass



# Rhizosphere

- area around plant roots affected by plant metabolic activity.
- rhizobacteria - root-associated bacteria.
- PGPR - plant-growth-promoting rhizobacteria.





**North Carolina creeping bentgrass rhizobacteria**

*Elliott et al., 2004*



# Fungi

- simple organisms
- mycorrhizal fungi
- Fusarium
- Rhizoctonia
- Trichoderma



# Evaluation of commercial arbuscular mycorrhizal inocula in a sand/peat medium. Corn (*Zea mays* L.)

54

Mycorrhiza (2007) 18:51–56

**Table 2** Effects of different application rates of commercial AMF inocula on percentage of root length colonized and frequency of AMF formation in plants of *Zea mays*

Inoculum #	Recommended rate		5× Recommended rate		10× Recommended rate	
	% Col.	Freq. (%)	% Col.	Freq. (%)	% Col.	Freq. (%)
1	None	None	None	None	None	None
2	None	None	None	None	None	None
3	6.1±3.0 <sup>a</sup>	80	68.6±4.4	100	72.5±3.0	100
4	None	None	None	None	None	None
5	None	None	None	None	None	None
6	8.0±4.4	80	1.2±1.2	20	None	None
7	0.4±0.4	10	4.9±2.7	60	12.5±6.3	80
8	None	None	None	None	8.6±2.9	100
Dune 1	60.5±2.9	100	nt <sup>b</sup>	nt	nt	nt
Dune 2	73.7±1.2	100	nt	nt	nt	nt
Dune 3	46.4±3.0	100	nt	nt	nt	nt

<sup>a</sup> Mean±SD

<sup>b</sup> Not tested

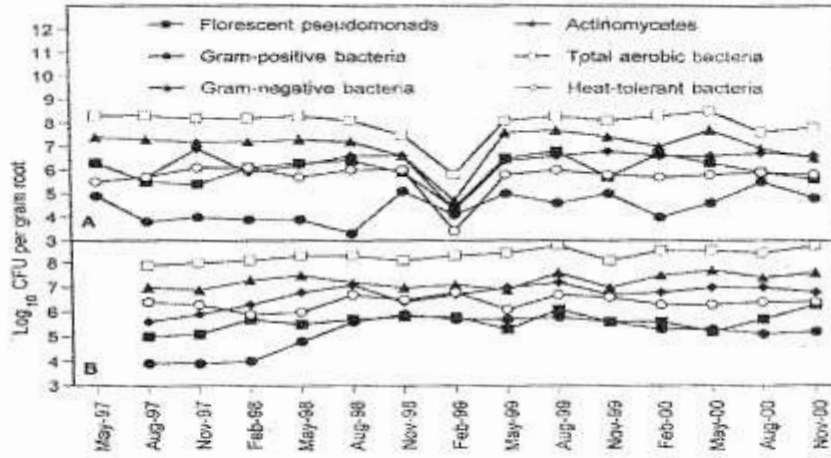
Tarbell and Koske, 2007

# Bacteria

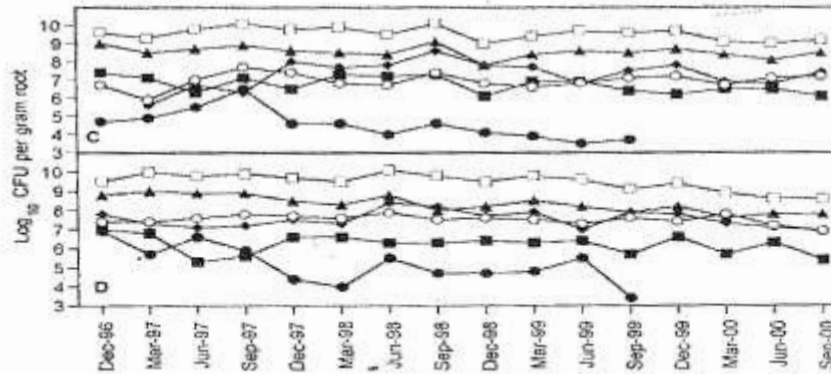
- more numerous in soil than all other organisms combined
- 1 soil sample may have 4,000 distinct bacterial species
- prokaryotic (no cell nucleus)
- *Anthrobacter*, *Bacillus*, *Pseudomonas* three common soil bacteria



Crenshaw  
bentgrass



Heat-tolerant bacteria  
Gram-negative bacteria  
Florescent pseudomonads  
Actinomycetes  
Total aerobic bacteria  
Gram-positive bacteria



Tifdwarf  
bermudagrass

# UpShot

- Lots of stuff already there.
- Issue is quantification and identification.
- How do we introduce microorganisms to our system and create positive effects?
- Not saying it can't happen or won't happen – identification and testing is the key.



