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TEA SEED MEAL NEWS

The 'buzz words' SAPONIN and TEA SEED continue to garnish thousands of hits on the web because folks are reading research reports and agricultural extension articles that discuss the damage to plants and animals from the Asian jumping worm (*amynthas agrestis*) and the Hammerhead Worm *(Bipalium*). Both worms are listed on the USDA National Invasive Species Information Center.

The Hammerhead worm produce a neurotoxin in their mucus than may harm people or pets while the Asian jumping worm destroys soil structure and can kill plants. In both cases, researchers are recommending that you capture these creatures and destroy them. Products containing natural saponin are proven to drive the worms from underground to the surface where they can be collected.

NOT A PESTICIDE

Planet Turf Tea Seed meal makes no pesticidal claims and Planet Turf is not recommending the product as such. It is worth noting that applications of any saponin-rich product may mitigate the negatives effects of invasive Jumping Worms and Hammerhead Worms. In addition, research shows the application of saponins to the soil will reduce the frequency of worm castings on the surface. Management then becomes a function of collecting the invasive pests and disposing of them. Other methods of control include solarization that raises the temperature of the soil and destroys the worms and their cocoons.[i]

Research shows that 6 lbs./1000 sq. ft of Tea Seed meal will reduce earthworm castings and cause worms to come out of their burrows to the surface.[ii] Managing casting information can be found at NC State Publication below.[iii]

Planet Turf is ready to supply your needs for 50 or 25 lb. bags of Tea Seed Meal.

[i] Internet source; https://extension.psu.edu/look-out-for-jumping-earthworms
[ii] Potter, D.A., C.T. Redmond, K.M. Meepagala and D.W. Williams. 2010. Managing earthworm casts (Oligochaeta: Lumbricidae) in turfgrass using a natural byproduct of tea oil (Camellia sp.) manufacture. Pest Management Science 66:439–446.
[iii] Internet source; https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/earthworm-in-turf

6422 E. 2ND AVENUE, SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99212
T 509-921-5421 WWW.PLANETTURFUSA.COM
SALES@PLANETTURFUSA.COM