

## **PROGRESS REPORT: FURFURAL AS A PRE-PLANT ALTERNATIVE IN THE USA**

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Professor Rodriguez-Kabana of Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, discovered the broad-spectrum biological properties of the active ingredient, furfural during the late 1980's and international patents were obtained for the product during 1991. The international commercial development of furfural as a soil applied nematicide and fungicide, began in South Africa in 1995. Furfural has also shown suppression of certain small seeded weeds. Under the leadership of Dr. Greg Burger and a team from Illovo Sugar Ltd., Illovo has formulated and commercialized furfural in South Africa, Africa, the Middle East, and most recently in the USA through its joint venture Agriguard Company, LLC. Based in South Africa, Illovo Sugar Ltd. is a leading sugar producer and also a leading basic furfural producer.

The first USA commercial formulation of furfural is registered with the USEPA as MultiGuard Protect®. MultiGuard Protect is a unique liquid formulation derived from sugarcane, used to control harmful nematodes through its contact mode of action. It is presently registered for use on golf course turf, athletic and other sports fields as well as ornamental plants, and non-bearing fruit trees. MultiGuard Protect leaves no harmful residue and can be applied up to six times per year. The low-toxicity rating of MultiGuard Protect minimizes handling limits. Upcoming registrations include pre-plant treatment to food crops, as well as in-season repeat applications which provides protection throughout the growing season.

The fact that MultiGuard Protect can be applied multiple times throughout the season without physical damage to plants has enormous impact. In-season application results in better all-around turf or plant quality and improved economics for the grower.

### **About Agriguard Company LLC**

Based in Cranford, NJ, Agriguard Company, LLC is a joint venture between Illovo Sugar Limited and Harborchem. Agriguard's flagship product, MultiGuard Protect, is currently registered for use in 28 states plus Puerto Rico.