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Ag Water Chemical announces Protec-T - a real solution to gopher damage to drip and micro irrigation systems.

FRESNO, Calif. (June 11, 2020) – Ag Water Chemical, a Fresno-based company specializing in agricultural water treatment since 1999, has received US EPA approval of Protec-T, a Biochemical Pesticide and non-lethal repellant to burrowing gophers in drip and micro irrigation systems.

Protec-T, a proven chemistry, received EPA approval last week and is currently in the registration process in various states.

When injected into irrigation systems, Protec-T combined with an IPM strategy incorporating predatory birds, baits, trapping and other practices, can have a significant effect on gopher populations in treated fields.

“The first step is to drive the rodents out of the field, where owls, hawks and other natural predators come into play,” said Ag Water Chemical President and Owner Richard Clevenger. “Together, we can have a substantial impact on these menacing gopher populations.”

Protec-T is just one more step in Ag Water Chemical’s quest to develop solid solutions to the issues facing ag water users. From its traditional full-service business of maintaining and mitigating the water quality issues facing drip, micro and sprinkler applications of irrigation water, to its expanded role in helping growers meet sanitation and disinfection standards for LGMA compliance, Ag Water Chemical (AWC) remains at the forefront of innovation in irrigation water treatment.

Because a majority of drip and micro-spray irrigators will face some type of system fouling and/or plugging issue over the lifetime of their irrigation system, AWC works endlessly to prevent and mitigate issues caused by algae and bacteria, mineral deposition of scale, iron, manganese and other types of foulants.

The keys to success for these irrigation systems are high-quality products, innovative design and installation, proper filtration and system maintenance, of which maintaining water quality is paramount. Left untreated, these contaminants plug narrow flow paths and outlets, reducing

water emission and Distribution Uniformity (DU) throughout a field. Poor DU may seem to be of little consequence. However, a few percentage points in reduced DU can translate to wasted water, energy and nutrients, not to mention reduced plant health and yield…all of which reduce Return on Investment (ROI).

In the pursuit of greater efficiencies through drip irrigation, many growers have turned to Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SDI). These systems provide an even higher level of water delivery efficiency by placing each drip line under the soil surface, concentrating water and nutrients closer to the zone of plant uptake, thereby reducing evaporation, response time to plant needs and movement of resources beyond the root zone.

One major deterrent to the widespread adoption of SDI systems has been due to the susceptibility to rodent damage on these underground drip lines. In these systems, it is common for gophers living and rooting under the soil surface to chew on these irrigation lines, causing extensive damage and leaks to the system. This damage is not only frustrating, time consuming and costly for producers to locate and repair, but these breaks in the drip lines also allow dirt and other contaminants to enter and plug the underground drip lines, reducing system performance and longevity.

Traditionally, producers have used baits, traps, mowing operations and various other means to reduce rodent populations and related damage. Today, AWC is excited to announce the introduction of Protec-T, to further help deter damage to these systems.

To learn more about Protec-T and the scheduled release in your state, contact Ag Water Chemical at 559-476-3830 or info@AgWaterChemical.com.

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