

NEW REGULATION ON DORMANT INSECTICIDE APPLICATIONS

A new regulation regarding dormant insecticide applications will take effect August 17, 2006. This regulation was adopted to address runoff from crops carrying dormant applied insecticides into waterways.

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The new regulation prohibits any dormant insecticide applications if the soil moisture is at field capacity (any rain would cause runoff) and a storm event forecasted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Weather Service (NWS) is to occur within 48 hours following the application or, a storm event likely to produce runoff is forecasted by NOAA/NWS to occur within 48 hours following the application. Forecasts by NOAA/NWS can be found on the web at: NOAA/NWS www.nws.noaa.gov/

If there is **no** forecasted storm, dormant insecticide applications may be made if the following conditions are met:

- ◇ Only apply a dormant oil, or a biocontrol agent such as but not limited to spinosad or Bacillus sp.; or
- ◇ Only apply to a hydrologically isolated site; or
- ◇ Divert any runoff with an on-farm recirculating system and/or contain and hold any runoff for 72 hours before releasing into a sensitive aquatic site

If **none** of the above conditions can be met, the following restrictions apply:

- ◇ The operator of the property to be treated shall obtain a written recommendation from a licensed pest control adviser prior to the application; and
- ◇ The application shall not be made within 100 feet of any sensitive aquatic site; and
- ◇ Wind speed shall be 3-10 miles per hour (mph) at the perimeter of the application site as measured by an anemometer (wind meter) on the upwind side

Aerial application of dormant insecticides shall only be allowed if:

- ◇ Soil conditions do not allow field entry, or approaching bloom conditions necessitate aerial application, a recommendation is obtained, a 100 foot buffer to sensitive aquatic sites is maintained, and the wind speed is measured at 3-10 mph.

The text of the new regulation may be found on the web at: www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/rulepkgs/05-004/final.pdf

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CALIFORNIA GROUND SQUIRREL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources recently announced a new website for information regarding the Best Management Practices for the California Ground Squirrel. Their website <http://groups.ucanr.org/gsbmp> is a comprehensive guide to the Biology and Control of Ground Squirrels.

How does one tell the difference between a ground squirrel and a tree squirrel? As a rule, when threatened a ground squirrel will retreat into its burrow in the ground, under a fallen tree, rock outcropping, or man made structure. A tree squirrel will retreat up a tree.

Why is this important? The tree squirrel is protected and requires a depredation permit through the California Department of Fish and Game to control outside of the regular hunting season. Ground squirrels are not protected. If ground squirrels are causing damage to your crop or private property, they can be controlled at any time, in any legal manner.

If you are unsure whether you have ground or tree squirrels consult a good vertebrate book such as Audubon or look at the above website which contains some good images of the ground squirrel. Unfortunately, the website does not have a good image of our local tree squirrel, but the gray color, bushy tail, and arboreal habits of this spirited animal are key identifiers.

Bait is available in our office during normal business hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The following is what's available:

❖ Diphacinone .005% - 5 lb	\$10.75
❖ Diphacinone .005% - 1 lb Rodent Bait Blocks	\$4.75
❖ Diphacinone .005% - 25 lb	\$42.00
❖ Diphacinone .010% - 5 lb	\$10.75

If you have any questions you can contact Dan Curtin at the Agricultural Commissioner's Office for more information at (707) 565-2371.

AGCOMPLYIT

For people interested in the Regulation Compliance Education project www.AgComplyIT.com is open and ready for use. AgComplyIT identifies the state and federal laws that affect California producers.

Here is what's new:

- ❖ The Regulation Compliance Education project has a new and updated online version of the software tool at www.AgComplyIT.com
- ❖ Spanish and English versions available
- ❖ Regulations have been updated
- ❖ Reports have more information
- ❖ Download available in Microsoft Excel
- ❖ Free to growers thanks to a grant from USDA Risk Management Agency



HABITAT FACTS:

- ❖ Found on natural rangeland, pastures, grain fields, slope with scattered trees, rocky ridges.
- ❖ Avoids thick chaparral and dense woods.
- ❖ Prefer open areas where visibility is good to avoid natural enemies.
- ❖ But well-adaptable to many environmental situations.

THE VISION:

- ❖ Provide a tool to allow farmers to quickly determine the regulations that apply to their operations.
- ❖ Explain the basic requirements and provide links to complete information and contacts.
- ❖ Offer this tool in languages that reflect the agricultural community.