
THE PESTICIDE REVIEW

Volume 2, Issue 1

Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture

January 2003



The Pesticide Review

Updating our mailing list.

You will notice in this mailing we included a postcard asking you a few questions about this newsletter. It is important you return this postcard so we can create a new mailing database.

We want to continue making this newsletter available to every pest control business registered in Santa Clara County. However, we are looking for ways to reduce expenditures for this project. One option now available is for companies to access newsletters through our new website. We hope most of you have access to the Internet and will be able to download the newsletters electronically, enabling us to cut back on the number of mailings each month. If you choose this option and provide an email address, we will send you an email notifying you of each new posting. Of course, if you do not have Internet access, we can continue to mail you a copy.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 The Pesticide Review
- 2 Agriculture Website
- 3 Small Business Hazardous Waste Program
- 4 The Olive Fruit Fly

Agriculture Website

Up and running!

The website for the County of Santa Clara recently underwent a major renovation. The intent behind the overhaul was to make the entire County website more user friendly.

During this reconstruction process, our division took on the task of updating and adding helpful information to our website. Under our "Pesticide Safety, Forms, & Education" page, you can look up continuing education classes for both agricultural and structural licensees and download a number of forms. Forms available include employee pesticide training forms (English and Spanish), written training program, monthly summary use reports, PSIS series, and the California Restricted Materials List.

Under "Newsletters & Monthly Agricultural Updates" you can download all of our newsletters. Each newsletter heading has a quick synopsis of topics for easy reference.

We also have a number of helpful links with each page. Our "Weed Identification and Management" page has links to websites that may help you identify a pesky plant.

The easiest way to navigate to our site is to go through the County's main portal and click on "Agencies / Departments" and scroll down to Agriculture. You may wish to "bookmark" the site for future reference.

The County's website address is:

<http://www.sccgov.org>

Our direct website address is:

<http://www.sccgov.org/site/0,4760,sid%253D14086,00.html>

Small Business Hazardous Waste Program

Where can you dispose of your hazardous waste?

Every now and then, when inspecting storage sites, we will come across some interesting inventory. We have seen gallons of Chlordane and Lindane, and other materials in old amber jars with rusty screw top lids. Some containers had been sitting for so long that time has completely faded the label. What can a business do with these materials? When is something considered a hazardous waste?

If a pesticide no longer has a legible label, you obviously cannot use it. In the case of very old materials, using the product would probably be a waste of time due to potency issues. As far as Chlordane is concerned, registration of this material has been cancelled and it cannot be used in the pest control industry.

So, if you are one of those companies that have not cleaned out the old storage room in a few decades, we have a solution for you. The Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health has a waste disposal program for small businesses. If your business generates less than 100 kilograms (27 gallons or 220 pounds) of hazardous waste each month, you are considered to be a "conditionally exempt small quantity generator." This means that you may qualify to use the County's Small Business Hazardous Waste, Recycling, & Disposal Program.

How do you register? What is the cost?

The Department of Environmental Health will ask you to certify in writing that your business generates less than 100 kilograms of waste per month. They will also send you a certification form for you to fill out.

The cost of disposing your materials through this program is shared with other participating companies. The County's Small Business Hazardous Waste, Recycling, & Disposal Program will consolidate several companies' wastes, which reduces the cost for each company. Your final cost is based on the type and quantity of waste you have, but the cost is substantially less than if you were to dispose of the waste individually through a private hazardous waste company.

For a cost estimate, call and ask for the Small Business Hazardous Waste Recycling and Disposal Program at: (408) 299-7300, or you can fax a detailed inventory on your company letterhead to the attention of: "County Small Business Hazardous Waste, Recycling, & Disposal Program" at their fax number: (408) 280-6479.

Storage and Transportation

If you have old pesticides that are unusable due to their age, or if you have no intention of using the material, they are no longer classified as a pesticide but rather as hazardous waste. A company may store up to 100 kilograms of waste, but must dispose of it within a year.

Once materials have been designated as a hazardous waste, they must have labels identifying the material. The label must have the chemical or common name of the material. If the material is unknown, then label it "unknown pesticide" or whatever is appropriate. The label must be made of a durable material and it must be replaced if it fades.

If you have questions regarding the labeling of hazardous waste, call the Hazardous Waste Materials Compliance Division at (408) 918-3400.

The general public can transport 5 gallons or 50 pounds of hazardous waste. If you plan to transport more than that amount, call Environmental Health and they will provide a State variance, which will allow you to transport up to 100 kilograms per trip.

Drop-off Facilities

After you have made an appointment with the Santa Clara County Small Business Hazardous Waste, Recycling, & Disposal Program, you may drop off your waste at one of three drop-off facilities in San Jose, Sunnyvale, or San Martin.

The city of Palo Alto also has a hazardous waste program. They offer services to small businesses in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View. For more information about their program, call (415) 496-6980.

** The Santa Clara County Hazardous Waste, Recycling, & Disposal Program currently has a program to dispose of Diazinon and Dursban for FREE until March 31, 2003. Call (408) 299-7300 for details.

The Olive Fruit Fly

Bactrocera oleae



Our office didn't realize how many homeowners in the County cured their own olives until this fly moved into town. We have been inundated by phone calls from homeowners desperate for a solution to save their fruit. Homeowners are reporting up to a 100% loss of olive fruit due to this introduced pest.

Since this insect only impacts the olive industry and farmers have options for control, the State decided not to invest in an eradication program for this pest. Because there were no controls measures, this introduced fruit fly readily demonstrated how fast an exotic pest could distribute itself across the State. The olive fruit fly was first detected in Los Angeles County in October of 1998. By the year 1999, the fly was discovered in San Joaquin County. By 2000, it was found in Kern, Fresno, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, Madera, Alameda, and Santa Clara Counties.

Life Cycle

It is possible for this pest to have 3 - 4 generations per year. In this area, the olive fruit fly has two population surges. The first surge is in the spring; the second is in late summer.

Olive fruit fly primarily over-winters as pupae in the soil beneath the trees, although it is possible for adults to survive the winter. Adult flies emerge from pupae between March and April. By June, female flies are looking for early ripening olive fruits to lay their eggs. When the females sting the fruit it not only allows bacteria to enter the fruit, but the feeding activity of the larvae render the fruit unusable.

Control

This past year, olive growers had access to a Section 18 pesticide that specifically targeted the olive fruit fly. There were no products available to the pest control industry or to the public specifically targeting this pest. However, a new Section 18 was recently issued that made a material available for ornamental and non-commercial olive growing sites. The product is called the "Olive Fly Attract and Kill (A&K) Target Device" and is manufactured by Certis USA LLC. This trap is effective for four to six months and the trap density is one per olive tree.

What is a Section 18 material?

"Section 18" refers to a section in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). This section allows the U.S. EPA to give a pesticide product an emergency exemption from the usual Federal and State registration. This special exemption only lasts a year and there are strict controls on the use of these pesticides.

Using the subject of olive fruit fly as an example, let's discuss how and why a product gets a Section 18 exemption. Since olive fruit fly is a new pest in California, pesticide manufacturers do not have any products currently on the market that target this pest. The only option for olive farmers would be to use large amounts of conventional insecticides. However, it came to the State's attention that there was an unregistered insecticidal bait that showed great promise in the control of this insect. The State and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviewed this material and decided that the environmental impact and economic cost of controlling this pest could be greatly reduced by allowing the use of this pesticide. A Section 18 exemption was granted for the material and tolerances were set for residues.

What is required for pest control companies to obtain a Section 18 material?

Section 18 materials are restricted pesticides, so a pest control company would need to obtain a restricted materials permit through the county agricultural commissioner's office. Pest control companies that are interested in using the A&K Target Device should contact their district biologist to obtain a restricted materials permit. A copy of the Section 18 exemption must be kept with the label and be with the applicator at each use site.

In addition to the permit, pest control companies must submit a notice of intent whenever they use the material, and they must report the usage of this product to our office every week. We will also ask you to report any problems you find associated with your use of this material.