



# GROWING TIMES



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Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture

November 2005

## Private Applicator Certificates

*Expiration dates...*



It's that time of year again! Private applicator certificates need to be renewed if your last name begins with the letters: R - Z.

Last names and expiration dates:

A - H expires December of 2006

I - Q expires December of 2007

**R - Z expires December of 2005**

If your private applicator card expires this year, you will need to bring your continuing education certificates with you when you come to pick up your permit. Your district biologist will need to fill out a form and list all of the classes you have taken. (If you have had your certificate for 3 years, you will have had to complete 6 hours of continuing education.)

If you need to take the examination, give our South County Office a call at (408) 465-2900 or our San Jose Office at (408) 918-4600 to schedule an appointment to take the exam.

## Mediterranean Fruit Fly in San Jose



*This serious agricultural pest has once again made an appearance in the South Bay*

The California Department of Food and Agriculture found two Mediterranean Fruit Flies in October. The first fly was found near Blossom Hill Road and Snell Avenue. The second fly was found about one-half mile south of the first find in a residential neighborhood near Clydesdale and Dunn Avenues. According to State protocol, these two finds resulted in an emergency proclamation by the California Secretary of Agriculture authorizing implementation of an eradication project.

The eradication program involves increased trapping to delimit the infestation, ground treatment of bait at core properties, the release of sterile male Med-flies, and a quarantine to prohibit the movement of host fruit and vegetables.

The treatment program consists of two weekly bait treatments applied by backpack sprayers to all properties within a 200-meter radius around each find. The bait spray contains an insecticide called "spinosad". Spinosad is a naturally derived compound, which can be used by certified organic growers. It is very good at attracting the flies, and has been used in many recent eradication projects across the state.

The quarantine area is approximately 81 square miles and may change based upon additional trapping data. The quarantine prohibits the movement of host fruits and vegetables out of the quarantine zone. It is important to note there are very few commercial growers impacted at this point.

*At the time of publication the State has not found any additional Med-flies but are continuing their extensive trapping program to insure the infestation is contained.*

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# Choosing the Right Gloves For the Job

*What kind of glove should you wear?*



Choosing the right safety gear plays a critical role in protecting pesticide handlers. Pesticide applicators face the possibility of exposure by the very nature of their job. Handling and working around pesticides on a daily basis can provide opportunities for an exposure, especially if the wrong kind of gloves are used!

When choosing a glove a number of things must be considered.

1. What does the pesticide label require?
2. Title 3, California Code of Regulations Section 6738(c) requirements
3. Frequency of contact and the concentration of the pesticide
4. Dexterity requirements
5. Size and comfort

## Label requirements

Anyone attending a continuing education course has more than likely heard the phrase: "the label is the law". This is because there is a code section in the Food and Agricultural Code that states the use of any pesticide shall not conflict with labeling. This is very important when it comes to safety gear. Following label instructions is extremely important because many times the solvents in a pesticide are not listed on a label and many are just as dangerous -- if not more so -- than the active ingredient! When a specific type of glove is required on a label, be sure to follow all safety gear requirements!

## 3CCR Section 6738(c)

In order to protect employees, 3CCR Section 6738(c) steps in when pesticide labels do not specify a certain level of safety gear, but rather state something to the effect: "avoid exposing skin". Section 6738(c) requires all employees to wear gloves, regardless if the label calls for them or not. (The only exception to this is when a label specifically states that a handler shall not wear gloves, as in the case of some fumigants, or in some cases when an applicator uses special equipment to apply vertebrate baits.)

Section 6738(c)(2) also helps applicators choose the right type of glove when a pesticide label makes a blanket statement such as: "wear gloves" or "wear chemically resistant gloves". This regulation helps fill in the gaps by specifying gloves should be made of rubber, neoprene, or other chemical resistant material that provides equivalent or better protection.

## Frequency of contact and concentration of the pesticide

These factors are very important in determining the type of material and thickness of a glove. Some gloves will protect you for a short amount of time, some much longer -- it all depends on the type of material the glove is made of, its thickness, and the pesticide involved. Gloves have their weaknesses and it is important to choose the right one if you will be handling concentrates or if you anticipate a long exposure time with a material. As soon as a chemical comes into contact with a glove, it starts to move into and possibly through the glove. The State DPR Worker Protection Division said gloves of 14 mil or thicker of viton, butyl rubber, nitrile, neoprene rubber, or natural rubber, will satisfy the thickness and chemically resistant requirement. Be sure to check with the label to see which material is best for the chemicals you use.

## Dexterity requirements

The general rule of thumb is the thicker the glove, the higher the protection. Unfortunately, that usually means a reduction in tactile feeling and the ability to grip and manipulate equipment. This is an important factor to evaluate when selecting safety equipment. It may be necessary to have a different set of gloves for different use situations. As long as you are in compliance with the type of material and if the exposure will be minimal, a thinner glove may be safer for an applicator to use in some situations. Wearing a thicker glove may compromise an employee's safety due to the loss in dexterity. If an employee will be manipulating equipment and needs to be able to get a safe grip or needs the dexterity to carry out the task safely, a thinner glove may be the safest thing for your applicator. You need to use your experience, your knowledge of the pesticide label requirements, and the use situation to evaluate the type of glove that is appropriate.

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## Choosing the Right Gloves For the Job

### Size and Comfort



When fitting an applicator with their safety gear, be sure their equipment truly "fits like a glove". You want to make sure gloves fit snugly enough so they won't slip off too easily, but not too tight and difficult to remove. Another consideration when fitting an employee is the length of the glove. Will the employee's forearms likely come into contact with a material? If that's the case, an elbow-length glove may be appropriate. Again, the use situation and your experience must come into play when selecting safety gear.

Regarding comfort, something we all dread is sticking our hands into a set of thick safety gloves on a hot, sweaty day. A suggestion from our department is to supply your applicator with a box of powdered disposable latex or nitrile gloves. The applicator can slip these disposable gloves on before slipping on their chemically resistant gloves. The applicator's hands will more than likely become sweaty no matter what, but they can at least slip on a fresh pair of powdered gloves each time they have to put on their protective gear. - Be sure to re-iterate to your employees that disposable gloves do not qualify as chemically resistant safety gear!

### Change-out Schedule & Common Violations

California Code of Regulations Section 6738(a) requires personal protective equipment be inspected daily and replaced when necessary. Many gloves will have a long life, especially if they are routinely rinsed and properly stored out of the sunlight. At the beginning of each workday, be sure to inspect your gloves for small holes, wear patterns, a change in color, cracks, or a loss in pliability. When we inspect an applicator, we also inspect your equipment!

Some of the common glove violations our office have found are workers that remove a glove and then proceed to use their ungloved hand to remove their second glove! This practice defeats the purpose of wearing the gloves in the first place. We have also observed workers jumping into their vehicles and driving to the next site with their gloves on, contaminating the vehicle's steering wheel. Another problem we have found are applicators not following label instructions. Be sure to read your pesticide labels for any specific instructions requiring an applicator to rinse their gloves before removing them!

## Cleaning Pesticide Spray Equipment



### Cleaning tanks and rinsate disposal

As you well know, cleaning your spray equipment on a regular basis is an important step in caring for your equipment. Pesticides can corrode and clog tanks, seals, and hoses if they are allowed to sit or accumulate.

### Where should you clean your equipment?

You should select a location where any spilled rinsate will not contaminate storm drains, desirable plants, wildlife, etc.

If you have a wash area that drains into a sanitary sewer system, call your sanitary district and ask them about your pesticide rinsate. Sanitary districts have restrictions on the type of pesticides that can be sent to waste treatment plants.

### Is rinsate hazardous waste?

That depends on what you do with it. Pesticide rinsate can be considered hazardous waste if you wash the material down a storm drain. The only substance that is allowed to go down a storm drain is water. Diluted rinsate that has been neutralized is not water!

On the other hand, rinsate can be considered a diluted pesticide and not hazardous waste. After rinsing your tank and hoses with water and tank cleaner / neutralizing agent, you can spray your rinsate and cleaning solution onto a site that is consistent with the use of the pesticide. By discharging your rinsate onto a use site, you are essentially spraying out diluted pesticides. However, be aware of how much you discharge in one area, especially if you are discharging onto desirable plants. Even though your spray solution is very diluted, a large accumulation of the material may harm plants.

For questions or comments, please contact:  
Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture  
"Growing Times"  
1553 Berger Drive, San Jose, CA 95112  
Or, e-mail: [sccagriculture@era.co.scl.ca.us](mailto:sccagriculture@era.co.scl.ca.us)

\* This newsletter is available on-line on  
our website: <http://www.sccagriculture.org>

# Agricultural Civil Penalties

California Code of Regulations 6130

We want to remind everyone the fine amounts for civil penalties changed last year. All violations occurring after the date of May 25, 2004, are subject to new fine guidelines.

## Class A Violations:

Are a repeat of Class B violations or violations that created an actual health or environmental hazard. Violating a commissioner's cease and desist order will also be placed in this category. The fine range for this designation is **\$700 - \$5,000!**

## Class B Violations:

Are a repeat of Class C violations, or violations, which posed a reasonable possibility of creating a health or environmental effect. The new fine range for this designation is **\$250 - \$1,000.**

## Class C Violations:

Violations are not defined in either Class A or Class B. The fine range for this designation is **\$50 - \$400.**

Record keeping errors, late use reports, etc, are usually placed in this category.

# The Problem with Symphylans

*The Sneaky Soil Pest*

Photo: Jack Kelly Clark UC IPM



Our office started getting calls from a few greenhouse growers last spring regarding root damage to crops. After some detective work and creative baiting techniques, we discovered the problem was symphylans.

Symphylans look very similar to centipedes and will quickly run away when exposed to light. This ground dweller will move vertically in the soil column according to temperature, dampness, time of the year, and other factors. They can grow up to 10mm in length and have 10-12 pairs of legs. When they first hatch, they have 6 pairs of legs and will gain a pair of legs each molt until they reach adulthood.

Symphylans will feed on decaying material, manure, and plant roots. They create the most damage with young transplants or seedlings. Young plants cannot keep up with the loss of roots and the plants die. Mature plants can usually withstand symphylan damage, but can show signs of stress if the root damage is substantial.

The best way to tell if symphylans are to blame for root damage is to set a trap. Brush away the top layer of soil until you reach moist ground. Place a slice of beet or potato on the ground and cover with something to hold in the moisture. A bucket, a container, or a 4" PVC cap will work. Leave the bait for a day or two and come back and take a look to see if symphylans are present.

To discourage symphylans, make sure you only use well-composted organic materials or manure on your land. Reducing raw organic materials in your soil will help reduce the available food source for this pest.

Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to control symphylans. What will work for one person may not work for another. A number of factors will effect a treatment. The soil type, soil moisture, temperature, time of year, the location of the symphylans in the soil column, organic material in the soil, etc, can all effect a treatment.

The U.C. IPM website states that treating the soil with an insecticide can be problematic but that an insecticide treatment may give the plant a chance to get established. They stated the only insecticide registered for symphylans is Diazinon. For more information you can visit the UC website:

<http://axp.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r783500111.html>

## Continuing Education Seminar

Our office will present a continuing education seminar in December. Please call and reserve a seat today!

**When:** December 13, 2005

**Where:** San Martin Lions Club  
12415 Murphy Avenue  
San Martin

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
(Registration starts at 8:00 a.m.)

**Credits:** 2 1/2 hours for Private Applicators:  
1 hour of "Laws & Regs" and 1 1/2 hours "other" for QAL, QAC, PCA Licensees

**Fee:** FREE!

**RSVP:** Call (408) 465-2900