



## Pesticide Permit Renewal

*2007 Permits and Operator Identification Numbers*

It's that time of the year again. Operator Identification Numbers and Restricted Materials Permits will expire on December 31, 2006. Growers that want to apply pesticides in 2007 will have to renew their identification number or permit before applying any pesticides.

If you have a restricted materials permit, or if you are responsible for the pesticide training of your employees, look at your Certified Private Applicator card to see when it expires. If your last name begins with the letters "A" through "H", your certificate will expire on December 31, 2006. In order to renew your certificate, you must have 6 hours of continuing education credit or pass the test to renew your certificate. Your new certificate will be valid for three years.

Permits for 2007 will be issued after December 11, 2006. To expedite the permit renewal process, promptly complete and return your renewal application and contact your agricultural biologist to schedule an appointment for a new permit. We can often have your permit ready and waiting for you if you contact us before you stop by!

## Mediterranean Fruit Fly Update



*This serious agricultural pest has been eradicated!*

The California Department of Food and Agriculture found two Mediterranean Fruit Flies in October of last year. These two finds resulted in an emergency proclamation by the California Secretary of Agriculture authorizing implementation of an eradication project.

We are happy to report that the State has declared our infestation eradicated! There have been no further Mediterranean Fruit Fly finds in Santa Clara County since October 2005!

## Glassy-winged Sharpshooter



Our office is continuing our efforts to eradicate three infestations of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) in San Jose. To date, 35 properties have been identified as infested with viable life stages of GWSS. Twenty-nine of these properties are located in the newly discovered infestation zone of the Evergreen area near Capitol Expressway and Silver Creek Road. The remaining six infested properties are in the Branham Lane / Almaden Expressway area and in the Blossom Hill / Monterey Road zones of infestation.

This season, landscaping at more than 300 properties surrounding the infested sites were treated with Merit insecticide. Over 7,800 tiny beneficial wasps were also released in the infestation zones as a biocontrol strategy against GWSS.

Based on the low number of infested properties in 2006, the program appears to be making significant progress towards controlling GWSS in the Blossom Hill and the Branham zones. We hope our continued efforts will see the same results in the Evergreen infestation area next year!

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## Wild Pigs

*What are the requirements to take a feral pig in Santa Clara County?*



One wild animal that makes its presence known is the feral pig. When wild pigs venture into nicely manicured landscapes or into agricultural lands, property owners with no previous experience with pigs are shocked at the amount of damage these animals can inflict upon the landscape.

### Background on wild pigs

Wild pigs did not exist in California before the early 1700's. Domestic swine were brought into the state when Spanish and Russian settlers arrived here several hundred years ago. Some of these pigs escaped and started a feral pig population. Compounding this problem was the introduction of the European wild boar in the 1920's. The wild boar bred with the established feral pig population resulting in the wild hybrid pig we have today.

Pigs are considered a game animal, so unless they are in the act of destroying crops or harassing livestock, they cannot be destroyed or trapped without a permit from Fish and Game. If a pig is taken while in the act of destroying property, the Department of Fish and Game must be notified no later than the next business working day.

### Who can legally take a pig that is in the act of damaging property?

The owner of the land, property, crop, or livestock; the owner's agent, lessee, or employee; or by an agent or government entity when acting in their official capacity.

Wild pigs can be taken if they are discovered in the act of damaging property. If the pigs have already damaged your property and you expect them to return, a depredation permit is **REQUIRED** from Fish and Game. These permits are free and many times the permit is issued over the phone. If you need a depredation permit please call the Department of Fish and Game at: (831) 649-2870.

(Be sure to follow all weapon laws. If you are unsure if you're in an area where you can legally discharge a firearm, be sure to contact your local police department or sheriff for information.)

## Department of Fish & Game's CALTIP Program



*CALIFORNIA'S SECRET WITNESS PROGRAM TO HELP STOP POACHING AND POLLUTING*

*1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)*

*The following article was taken from Fish & Game's website*

CalTIP (Californians Turn in Poachers and Polluters) is a confidential secret witness program to encourage the public to provide Fish and Game factual information leading to the arrest of poachers and polluters. The caller is eligible for a cash reward if his/her information leads to a citation or an arrest.

CalTIP was introduced in California in 1981, in order to give Californians an opportunity to help protect the state's fish and wildlife resources. The toll free telephone number operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may remain anonymous.

### To Report a Poacher or Polluter:

If you witness a poaching or polluting incident or any fish and wildlife violation, or have information about such a violation, immediately dial the toll free CalTIP number 1 (888) DFG-CALTIP, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Be prepared to give the fullest possible account of the incident including the name, address, age and description of the suspect, vehicle description, direction of travel, license number, type of violations and when and where it occurred. Your identity will be protected.

A warden or dispatcher will take your call. Information from the call is relayed to the Fish and Game region where the offense occurred and an investigation is undertaken locally. If the information supplied by the caller results in an arrest, the caller becomes eligible for a reward. (Rewards up to \$1,000 have been paid.) All reward money is acquired through private donations; no state funds are used. The case is then reviewed by a volunteer citizen's group known as the CalTIP Citizen's Review Board.

# Inert Ingredients

*Pesticide manufacturer's  
secret ingredients.*

<b>ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:</b>	
Dimethylamine Salt of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid .....	33.2%
Diethanolamine Salt of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid .....	16.3%
<b>INERT INGREDIENTS</b> .....	<b>50.5%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

When you read a pesticide label you have undoubtedly noticed the majority of the product's contents are listed as inert ingredients.

So, what are inert ingredients?

Inerts are defined as any ingredient in the product not intended to affect the target pest. Inerts may act as carriers for the active ingredients, help them dissolve, make them easier to apply, and in some cases they help preserve the effectiveness of the active ingredients.

If they are part of the pesticide's ingredients, why aren't they listed?

The law does not require inert ingredients to be identified by name because of trade secret laws. If pesticide manufacturers or registrants listed out their "secret ingredients," it would allow other companies to copy their product formulation.

The perception of inerts

Many people interpret inert to mean harmless. This, however, is not the case. Inert ingredients may not be designed to directly harm the target pest, but they may in fact be harmful. Sometimes inert ingredients are more acutely toxic to humans than the active ingredients. Due to the public's misconception of the word, in 1997 the U.S. EPA "requested" registrants replace the word "inert" on pesticide labels with the words "other ingredients."

Inert Categories

The U.S. EPA has categorized inert ingredients into four groups:

- #1 Substances known to cause long-term health damage and harm the environment
- #2 Chemicals suspected of causing health or environmental damage
- #3 Chemicals of unknown toxicity
- #4 Chemicals of minimal concern

In 1987, the U.S. EPA began extensive testing on new and existing inert ingredients found in pesticides, especially those products with inert ingredients in group #1. They also required group #1 inerts be labeled with the statement: "This product contains the toxic inert ingredient (name of the inert)." Further, new products containing group #1 inerts would not be registered unless a review indicated the risk of adverse effects to the environment or to humans would be decreased by the use of the material.

The US EPA lists inerts in group #2 as a "high priority for testing." The 60 chemicals listed under this group have been designated to undergo testing through the National Toxicology Program and the EPA Office of Toxic Substances.

The 800 inerts listed in group #3 are chemicals not thought to be of toxicological concern. When an inert doesn't fit the characteristics of the other three groups, it is placed in this list.

Group #4 inerts are considered to be of minimal concern. There are 300 substances in this group and they contain ingredients such as glycerin, sucrose, and vanillin.

If you would like to review the list of chemicals in each of EPA's inert groups, visit their website at the following address:

<http://www.epa.gov/opprd001/inerts/lists.html>

## The Definition of a Pesticide Handler

*California Code of Regulations Section 6000*

Before any employee "handles" a pesticide, they must go through pesticide training pursuant to 3CCR Section 6724.

A person is considered a handler if they mix, load, transfer, apply, or assist with a pesticide application. It also includes employees that maintain, service, repair, handle, or clean pesticide equipment that has residues. Working with opened (including emptied but not rinsed) containers of pesticides, or adjusting, repairing, or removing treatment site coverings, such as tarps, also require an employee to be trained.

# Medical Supervision



## *Cholinesterase testing*

Cholinesterase is an important enzyme found between nerve synapses in vertebrates and insects. The communication between nerves in the body requires chemical reactions to be activated and then stopped once the message has been sent. Cholinesterase is an important enzyme used to stop these signals. So, why is the State concerned with cholinesterase levels in pesticide workers? When certain pesticides are absorbed into the body, they can suppress cholinesterase. When the body doesn't have enough of this enzyme in the system, nerve messages are sent and there can be a problem with shutting down the message if there isn't enough cholinesterase. You can imagine the problems that occur if there are signals from a nerve to move a muscle and nothing to stop the signal. There could be repeated firing of the nerve and nothing to stop it, causing uncontrolled, rapid twitching of the muscle.

The good news is our body is always making cholinesterase - so when our body runs low, it will make more. However, depending on the chemical the handler is exposed to, it takes a few days to a month or so to bring levels back to "normal."

When employees regularly handle organophosphate or carbamate pesticides, there is an increased chance of exposure to these chemicals and consequently, a chance their cholinesterase levels in their blood can be suppressed.

## What is a baseline?

The interesting fact about cholinesterase is that everyone has a different level of this enzyme in their blood. A certain level of cholinesterase may be normal for one person but be considered low in someone else. A baseline test is therefore necessary to see what level is "normal" for a particular person. If that person is exposed to a pesticide that interferes with the cholinesterase in their body, their doctor will have a reference point to the normal level for that person.

## What is Medical Supervision?

California Code of Regulations Section 6728 states that growers must keep medical records for

employees that regularly mix, load, or apply organophosphate or carbamate pesticides with the signal words "Danger" or "Warning."

The definition of "regularly handle" are employees that handle organophosphate or carbamate pesticides during any part of the day for more than six calendar days in any 30 consecutive days.

If your employees regularly use organophosphate or carbamate pesticides or if you are unsure if the pesticides you use would require this kind of testing, call your Agricultural Biologist! We will look at the chemicals you use and help you set up a proper medical supervision program if one is required.

## Continuing Education Seminar

**When:** Tuesday, December 12, 2006

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

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**C.E. :** 3.5 Hours for Certified Private Applicators, QAL, QAC, PCA  
(2 hours of "Laws and Regs." and 1.5 hours of "Other")

**RSVP:** Please call (408) 465-2900 to reserve your seat today!

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@aem.sccgov.org](mailto:sccagriculture@aem.sccgov.org)

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