

# GROUND SPRAYING COMING IN MARCH, 2008 FACT SHEET

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and California Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Plan to Begin Treating Residential Areas of Santa Cruz and Monterey with Two Pesticides, Permethrin and *Bacillus Thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk), beginning March, 2008. Applications will be to Trees, Telephone Poles, Plants on Public And Private Property.

## INFORMATION ON PERMETHRIN:

- Permethrin is listed as “Likely to be Carcinogenic to Humans” by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.  
[http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/factsheets/permethrin\\_fs.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/factsheets/permethrin_fs.htm)
- Permethrin is considered a Reproductive Toxin.  
Linda M. Frazier, MD, MPH & Marvin L. Hage, MD, University of Ohio. Reproductive Hazards of the Workplace.  
<http://www.ehs.ohio-state.edu/docs/labsafe/Table10.pdf>
- Permethrin is considered a neurotoxin that has more impact on children than adults. It is dangerous to bees and some aquatic species. Some studies suggest the possibility of additional serious health effects.  
Cox, C. (1998). Insecticide Factsheet: Permethrin. Journal of Pesticide Reform, 18 (2), 14-20.  
<http://www.pesticide.org/Permethrin.pdf>
- Permethrin is highly toxic to aquatic organisms.  
[http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/factsheets/permethrin\\_fs.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/factsheets/permethrin_fs.htm)
- Permethrin Harms Monarch Butterflies.  
Oberhauser, K.S., Brinda, S.J., Weaver, S., Moon, R.D., Manweiler, S.A., & Read, N. (2006). Growth and Survival of Monarch Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Danaidae) After Exposure to Permethrin Barrier Treatments. Environ. Entomol. 35(6): 1626-1634.

## INFORMATION ON BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS KURSTAKI (BTK):

- Adequate long-term safety studies are not available.
- Both the U.S. EPA and nonprofit organizations document the possibility that Btk may lead to food poisoning.  
<http://www.pesticide.org/btk.pdf>  
<http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/0247.pdf>
- The government of New Zealand conducted aerial spraying of *Bacillus Thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) for a Moth that was considered a Risk to Agriculture. New Zealand Citizens reported a lack of government response to their safety concerns. They reported over 580 adverse health effects. NZ Citizens conducted A People’s Inquiry into the Spraying Program with a Panel of Experts.  
<http://www.peoplesinquiry.co.nz/content/blogcategory/13/44/>  
[http://www.panna.org/legacy/panups/panup\\_20071122.dv.html](http://www.panna.org/legacy/panups/panup_20071122.dv.html)

For further information and back-up copies of these links, go to [www.CASSonline.org](http://www.CASSonline.org) or [www.LBAMspray.com](http://www.LBAMspray.com).

The California Alliance to Stop the Spray (CASS) is a local, grassroots collaborative of individuals and nonprofit groups.