

BUG BIZ



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here early as ever. There has been a lot of pest activity early this year; I hope it is helping everyone get started with a successful season this year. There are some Legislative issues that have been brought up and into session. One pressing issue is allowing municipalities to govern the pesticide usage in each municipality and taking this function away from the D.E.E.P.

C.T.E.C has been very active in this and they and The CPCA both testified last month, it is still in play and no sure outcome has been reached. Have a great season and Stay healthy and safe.

Heather Millette
CPCA President

April is National Pest Management Month

For more than 30 years, April has been celebrated as National Pest Management Month, recognizing the industry for its role in protecting public health and property from significant pest threats. PPMA is conducting a consumer media campaign to educate the public about the importance of professional pest management and encourages pest control companies to do the same, helping to raise awareness within their own local communities.

PPMA is also using the month to call attention to specific pest issues and initiatives. This year's focus is on common pests such as ants, termites and spiders, which may be big problems for consumers this spring given the mild winter. The organization will also be launching "Bed Bug Awareness Week," April 22-28 to spread awareness, promote public vigilance and provide essential

prevention advice about bed bugs in advance of the summer travel season.

PPMA has a variety of materials to help companies communicate to their customer base. To further explain the professionalism of the industry, PPMA recently developed, "Trust A Professional," a short consumer education video that gives a mother's perspective about why she chose to partner with a pest professional to protect her family. This video can be shared with clients or a customizable version can be downloaded for companies to use directly on their own websites, social media postings or email correspondence. PPMA also offers press release templates on a variety of pest topics, including one about NPMM. All materials are available to PPMA Guardians and Contributors on PPMATools.org, the group's exclusive marketing hub for investors.

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BUG BIZ is a bi-monthly publication of the Connecticut Pest Control Association(CPCA). For advertising information, call CPCA at (800) 678-6722 or e-mail cpcap@pestworld.org.

CPCA Board Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2012

In attendance was Heather Millette, Joe Giaimo, Emilio Polce, Art Cogswell, Mike McManus, Jeff Millette, Frank Dempsey, and Shelia Haddad.

A call to order was made at 5:05 p.m. Minutes were read by Mike M. from the December meeting; Emilio motioned; Jeff seconded and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Art reported that our locally held account had a beginning balance of \$15,305.30, no deposits, withdrawals of \$53.18 and \$249.46, leaving a balance of \$15,002.66. Our NPMA checking total was \$28,720.94, plus our local account of \$15,002.66, plus credit card payments of \$7405.00, brought our total holdings to \$51,128.60. The Income Statement was briefly reviewed. Emilio motioned; Jeff seconded and the Treasurer's report was accepted.

Membership: Membership lists were reviewed, several members found it difficult to read in its current two page format. There was also discussion about new members being allowed to join CPCA without being reviewed by the board, simply by sending in a check. Two new companies Bugzout and Pest Rx were voted on, and approved, after a brief review of there principals histories.

Education: Train-a-Tech dates are set for February 10, 2012 with Steve Mora (FMC) who will discuss ants and bed bugs and March 9, 2012 with Jim Baldino (BASf) and Kevin Moran (Residex) and they will cover rodents.

Legislation: No report.

Website: Shelia will be posting the Train-a-Tech dates on the site. The 2012 Fall Seminar will be on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT. Please note that this is scheduling change, mark your calendars.

New Business: The contract has been signed with the Crowne Plaza for the seminar. Joe Giaimo will start actively pursuing speakers for the event. We may also be looking for a new vendor for the *BugBiz* due to increased publishing costs.

Emilio motioned; Jeff seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m. Our February meeting will be held on February 21, 2012 at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McManus
Secretary

We Want to Hear from You!

We are always looking for fun and interesting articles to include in the *Bug Biz* and would love to hear from members about their experiences out in the field. Bug Biz welcomes contributions from members. If you would like to contribute, please submit articles typewritten by mail or e-mail to the contact information listed below. Photos should be submitted via e-mail. Be sure to include your name and identify all people shown in the photo. Deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. The *Bug Biz* is a bi-monthly publication by the Connecticut Pest Management Association (CPCA). Views and opinions expressed in editorial articles are not official expressions of the CPCA unless so stated. Send advertising and editorial inquiries to:

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Proposed Revisions to Pesticide Regulations in CT

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has published proposed revisions to pesticide regulations. The draft regulations propose to establish a third category of licensed applicator. The information below describes the regulation revision process and how and where to send written comments. To view a copy of the draft regulations, visit http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/public_notice_attachments/draft_regulations/2012april17certificationofpesticideapplicatorsandlicensingofarborists.pdf.

Notice of Intent to Adopt Regulations

Pursuant to sections 4-168 and 22a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection hereby gives notice of his intent to amend sections 22a-66-1, 22a-66-5, 22a-66a-1, 22a-66z-1 and 23-61a-1 through 23-61a-8 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. These regulations are being proposed under the authority of sections 22a-6, 22a-66(c), 22a-66a(g), 22a-66z and 23-61a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The proposed amendments would revise certain sections of the state's pesticide management regulations as well as regulations concerning the licensing of arborists. The purpose of these regulations is to ensure that work performed by pesticide applicators and arborists is conducted in a manner that does not adversely impact human health or the environment.

The proposed revisions a) make technical corrections to the language and format of the regulations for clarity and program consistency; b) create a new class of operator which will be authorized to make independent decisions in the field without written instructions from a supervisor; c) allows the commissioner to issue aquatic chemical permits for a period of up to three years which will reduce the administrative burden on both the department and permit applicants; d) clarifies the content and format of signs that are required to be posted when pesticide applications take place to ensure that pesticide notification language is clear and obvious; and e) amend the arborist licensing regulations to make the regulatory language consistent with statutory language and to reflect fee increases recently imposed by statute.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, 4th Floor, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT. A link to the proposed regulations is available at the Department's website at: www.ct.gov/dep/publicnotices. The proposed regulations can also be obtained by calling the Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, Pesticide Management Program, at (860) 424-3324. With this notice the Department seeks comments only on the proposed amendments to the regulations. The Department is not seeking comments on language that is not being revised.

All interested persons are invited to present their views regarding the proposed regulations. Written comments on the proposed regulations may be submitted to Mr. Bradford Robinson, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Pesticide Management Program 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127 not later than May 17, 2012.

A public hearing shall be held if 25 or more persons request a hearing in writing. Such requests should be sent to Bradford Robinson at the address above. DEEP is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and service provider. In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, DEEP makes every effort to provide equally effective services for persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities who need this information in an alternative format, to allow them to benefit and/or participate in the agency's programs and services, should call 860-424-3035 or e-mail the ADA Coordinator, at DEP.aoffice@ct.gov. Persons who are hearing impaired should call the State of Connecticut relay number 711. Requests for accommodations must be made at least two weeks prior to the program date.

Macky McCleary
Deputy Commissioner

Could Ban on Pesticides at Schools Be Lifted?

From March 18, 2012 New Canaan Advertiser, by Matt Dalen

A year and a half after a comprehensive ban on pesticides at certain schools went into effect, the state is attempting to deal with how to allow schools to control pests. Recently, the Connecticut General Assembly's Joint Committee on Planning and Development voted 12 to three, with six absences, to support a bill which would allow pesticides as part of an "integrated pest management plan," while the Environmental Committee is considering a rival bill that would undo the ban for non-toxic, organic pesticides.

The first bill, HB-5155, would eliminate the full ban on pesticides, which had applied to any schools with students in eighth grade or lower, and instead allow schools to apply lawn care pesticides on fields and grounds "pursuant to an integrated pest management plan." These plans would be consistent with state pest management plans developed by the state Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The bill would also institute fines, ranging from \$500 to \$2,000, for violating these regulations.

The second bill, HB-5121, would define a microbial pesticide as "a pesticide that consists of a microorganism as the active ingredient" and a biochemical pesticide as a "naturally occurring substance that controls pests by nontoxic mechanisms," and would exempt both from the ban on use at schools. That bill would also allow municipalities to regulate pesticides applied to residential properties, as long as their regulations are more stringent than the state's.

The Ban

Although the state ban on pesticides only applies to schools with kindergarten through eighth grade, the Town Council's pesticides committee decided after the ban passed to extend a local ban to the high school's grounds as well, because younger students play on the high school fields.

According to Superintendent of Parks John Howe, this has caused some "degradation of conditions" at the fields, but that his department was attempting to combat invasive weeds and insects using non-pesticide strategies such as aerating the ground and overseeding grass. He said he personally would favor allowing integrated pest management plans, but that the decision would be up to the Town Council.

"My personal decisions are not necessarily what the town should decide," Howe said. "This should be a decision by the townspeople. I'll give my recommendations to maintain the best fields, but other people should make the final decision."

Howe said that the big three pests affecting the school grounds were grubs, which eat grass roots and leaves the ground bare, crab grass, which causes the dirt to clump rather than leaving a smooth field, and broad-leafed weeds like clover, whose flowers attract bees. He said that a grub infestation at the high school track field had forced field hockey games, which require a smooth grassy surface, to be played at Dunning Field.

"Once they eat all the roots, the grass just dries out and you have dirt," he said. "The only way to do it is to resod or reseed."

Howe said that the ban still allowed the use of pesticides in case of public health hazards, allowing his department to use them to eliminate potentially hazardous bee or wasp nests. In that case, he uses a cinnamon oil-based product approved by the health department.

Opposition

HB-5155, which has now been referred to the office of legislative research and office of fiscal analysis, has been opposed by local and regional environmental groups. "We strongly support the ban that is in place, and ask that you consider supporting it," wrote

Heather Lauver and Hicaele Porta of Pesticide-Free New Canaan in last week's Advertiser. "...Why, when they are free to apply pesticides everywhere else, are these interest groups seeking to undo this law in Connecticut?"

Pesticide-Free New Canaan has created a petition to oppose the bill, at org2.democracynaction.org/o/7106/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=9658.

"Schools throughout Connecticut and the nation have demonstrated that they can eliminate the use of toxic pesticides while successfully and cost-effectively managing pest problems on school grounds," said Louis Burch of Connecticut's Citizens Campaign for the Environment in a press release. "Hundreds of Connecticut landscapers have been trained to manage turf without using toxic pesticides."

Although HB-5155 was passed by the planning and development committee, Representative Matthew Ritter (D-1st), who made the motion to pass the bill out of committee, said that did not necessarily indicate support for the bill.

"It was nothing more than a procedural step to move it out of committee," Ritter told the Advertiser. He said that he wanted both bills to receive a full vetting before one or the other was chosen, but that he was leaning towards allowing only organic pesticides.

New Canaan state Senator Scott Frantz (R-36th) said that he was studying the issue.

"I think that, provided that the DEEP has a real good handle on what's acceptable and what's not from a health point of view, I think it's good to have some flexibility," he told the Advertiser.

"I think that [the current ban] is maybe a little too onerous, as there may be quite a few pesticides on the market that are completely harmless. The health and safety of our children is paramount, and we will all be looking at what the best solution is to achieve that... so that we're not too onerous to the school systems or the businesses."

Research

"Pesticides" are a broad category, including many different types of insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides, and many of them have not been well-studied for their long-term effects. The Environmental Protection Agency maintains a list of pesticides at epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/status.htm, with fact sheets on those pesticides which have been reviewed for health effects.

According to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, a division of the National Institutes of Health, there has been some indication of possible neurological effects from long-term exposure to pesticides—particularly for farmers—but "scientists do not yet have a clear understanding of the health effects of [low-level] pesticide residues."

Despite the limited information, the Environmental Protection Agency restricts how pesticides may be used, and offers guidelines on protecting children from pesticides. More information is at epa.gov/pesticides/health/children.htm.

Natural Effects

In addition to their potential impact on human health, pesticides can have an effect on animals maintained by humans as well. This fall, the honey bee hive at the New Canaan Nature Center's community garden died over a matter of weeks—several hundred dead honey bees were found in a pile about three feet from the hive entrance, according to center officials.

After consulting with several local beekeepers, the center concluded that the bees had been poisoned by ingesting pesticides.

"It is likely that those bees found a good pollen or nectar source on a nearby property that uses pesticides and slowly brought it back into the hive with the pollen and nectar," said Melanie Miller, the center's director of animal care. The center does not use pesticides on its property. ■

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Scientists Find Fungus That Kills Lyme Disease-Carrying Ticks

From March 4 Connecticut Post, by Vinti Singh, Connecticut Post

Local scientists have found a way to control the ticks responsible for passing Lyme disease on to humans. A new natural pesticide, derived from a strain of fungus that is deadly to the black-legged tick could help keep tick populations under control.

Unlike some synthetic pesticides that can be dangerous for more than just ticks, the fungus does not harm honeybees, earthworms or other beneficial insects.

The product was developed by a Fairfield-based company that was bought out by the Danish industrial biotechnology company Novozymes.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's field trials of the fungus helped obtain federal Environmental Protection Agency registration. Novozymes has built a plant in Canada to mass produce the product, Tick-Ex.

It will be commercially available in 2014, said Kirby Stafford, the station's vice director and chief entomologist.

"A lot of people do have their yards sprayed with pesticides, and they are quite effective, because synthetic materials will give you an 85 to 100 percent success rate," Stafford said. "But there are a special number of people who don't want to use them. The (organic product) may be slightly less effective, but it's giving people options. It certainly would fit in to organic land care."

The pesticide is made of the F52 strain of the *Metarhizium anisopliae* fungus, which occurs naturally in soil. The station tested it on residential properties in northwestern Connecticut and found up to 74 percent fewer ticks after treatment.

Although rates dipped slightly in 2010, the number of people in Connecticut with Lyme disease has been steadily rising, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Connecticut has the nation's highest number of cases, relative to population. The first symptoms of the disease include headache, fever and rashes. But if left untreated, the disease can spread to the joints, heart and nervous system.

The overabundant deer population is one reason the disease is so widespread, according to the state Department of Public Health. Black-legged ticks feed on large mammal hosts, which in Connecticut are usually deer.

Many Lyme disease experts have said the solution is to cull the deer, but research shows that is only really effective when the deer are culled to very low numbers, said Louis Magnarelli, director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

The station has researched a number of methods to control Lyme disease.

It found nootkatone, a component of essential oil from Alaskan Yellow Cedar and grapefruit is toxic to ticks, and is highly effective.

As tests wind down, there is a small chance a company will pick it up because the cedar oil is only produced at a grade suitable for cosmetics and foods, making it expensive. Until production is scaled up for more commercial uses, it won't be used to eradicate ticks, Stafford said. The station has also tested a garlic spray product, which suppresses tick activity for around two weeks. Scientists in Maine discovered that a rosemary oil product, EcoX-EMPT, will eradicate ticks for at least two weeks.

The nationwide tick control research community is pretty small, Stafford said. Between 2001 and 2012, the state Department of Health and the agricultural experiment station have received a little more than \$2 million for public outreach and tick control research from the CDC. The CDC was expected to hand out two tick control grants in 2011, but based on available funds ended up only distributing one, which went to a research laboratory in Rhode Island.

Studies have found the fungus strain is also effective in killing bed bugs, but it won't be marketed for that use just yet.

"I can't see spreading the spores of this fungus into a bedroom," Stafford said. "But it begs for a formulation of how you expose it to just the targets and not the rest of the environment." ■

Lawmakers to Landlords: Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite

From March 9, 2012 CT News Junkie, by Joseph Adinolfi

Lawmakers crafted a bill that they say will help combat the spread of bed bug infestations, but opponents say it's an unnecessary and costly mandate.

At a public hearing Thursday, members of the Connecticut Coalition of Property Owners and the Connecticut Realtors Association criticized a section of the bill that would impose an expensive mandate on landlords while doing little to mitigate the spread of bed bugs.

Lawmakers say bed bugs are becoming an increasingly severe problem in Connecticut for both the wealthy and the poor and that a move to curb their spread is long overdue.

"It's not something we can just get rid of. We can't ignore it," said Sen. Edwin Gomes, D - Bridgeport. "You have roaches and you have ants, but it's a different thing with bed bugs."

The bill requires landlords to hire a certified exterminator within 10 days of discovering an infestation, an expense that John Souza, treasurer of the organization, said could amount to more than \$800 per unit.

It also requires tenants to take steps prescribed by the certified exterminator hired by the landlord to prevent the infestation's spread. It also allows landlords to sue the tenant if they can prove the tenant did not follow the exterminator's recommendations.

Rep. Bruce Morris, D - Norwalk, asked Souza if he would support a bill that allowed landlords to abate the problem without hiring an exterminator, but if the landlord's attempts failed, they would be responsible for abating the tenants rent and paying for the tenants temporary housing.

Souza said he would oppose the compromise because bed bugs often reemerge within a single housing unit even after it has been fumigated.

While they do not spread disease, they can cause intense emotional stress for a tenant and effect his or her job performance and ability to live a normal life.

There is a learning curve, but if a landlord educates him or herself, Souza said, he or she can quash an infestation cheaply using chemicals, bed bags, vacuum cleaners and other products that can be purchased at most hardware stores.

If discovered early, a landlord can rid a unit of bed bugs for as little as \$100.

Souza said that the liability issue, along with the risk of higher costs if the infestation spreads to surrounding apartments, is enough of an incentive for landlords to stop problem early and ensure that it does not spread.

Tenants can sue a landlord in small claims court if the landlord does not take action to rid their property of a bed bug infestation.

"With education, everyone will benefit," Souza added. "If ants were new today and you had dishes in your sink, someone would say 'take the dishes out of your sink.'"

Realtor Donna Karnes said that the bill unfairly targets renters while ignoring hotel and motel owners, cruise lines and owners of other temporary housing where bed bugs are often unwittingly picked up.

She agreed that the legislature needs to take action, but said that small business owners who rent out one or two multi-family houses would be disproportionately affected by the high cost of abatement.

"We need to do something, but we're singling out mom and pop [businesses]. We need to come up with a more broad based solution."

Rep. Christopher Wright, D - Bristol, said he believes the bill equally shares responsibility between landlords and tenants.

“I happen to work in the emergency room at St. Francis Hospital. In my emergency room we see people every day with that problem,” said. “Whatever it is we’re doing now isn’t working, because the problem isn’t going away, it’s only getting worse.”

Wright said the legislature is trying to provide better living circumstances for people in the state

Souza criticized a section of the bill that would require landlords to abate their tenants’ rent, saying that it unfairly placed responsibility on the shoulders of the landlord.

“Nobody is abating my taxes my mortgage payment my insurance payments,” Souza said.

Rep. Larry Miller, R - Stratford, said that the bill “needs some work” because taxpayers could be left paying for an exterminator if the bugs are introduced to municipal or state-owned housing.

“Our housing authority has about four or five complexes in our community, so now the town becomes the landlord,” Miller said. “It could cost our community a lot of money.

Miller also criticized the bill for being unclear about whether the owner of a single condo or the condominium association would pay if a renter introduces bed bugs.

The bill also requires landlords to disclose to potential tenants if a unit or any adjacent unit has been infested within the last twelve months, which Karnes said her organization supports.

The Connecticut Coalition Against Bed Bugs has worked with the Department of Public Health to host forums to gather information about Connecticut’s growing bed bug problem and has created guides that are available on the department’s website. But there’s little data about the extent of the problem because it isn’t associated with an infectious disease. ■



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Please enclose the application with proper remittance to: Connecticut Pest Control Association, 10460 North Street, Fairfax, VA 22030 or fax to (703) 352-3031. For questions or concerns about your joint membership, please contact Heather Millette at CPCA at 860-274-9503/ mpcpest@aol.com or Andy Architect at NPMA at 703-352-6762 /aarchitect@pestworld.org