

ATTENTION: RESIDENTS OF MICHIGAN

If you are concerned about the government deciding to have your property sprayed with chemical pesticides for mosquito control because of West Nile Virus or other mosquito borne viruses in Michigan, please fill out the bottom portion of this form & mail immediately if you do not want your property to be sprayed with chemical pesticides/insecticides. Please make copies of this form and give to neighbors and friends. There are less toxic approaches to control mosquito populations and before a decision to spray is made; residents should also contact their local and state officials immediately and voice their concerns. We believe spraying thousands of acres of Michigan with synthetic pesticides and synthetic pyrethroids is difficult to justify when:

***For most humans, West Nile Virus (WNV) is a low risk disease, (more people died from the flu than West Nile Virus).** Those at risk from WNV (the immune compromised & elderly) will also be at risk along with the general population (including unborn babies and children) for potential serious adverse health effects from widespread pesticide spraying. Widespread pesticide use is documented to harm sensitive ecosystems and vulnerable individuals.

***Negative human health effects well documented from pesticides.** Pyrethroids are associated with a broad array of human health impacts. Common acute effects include symptoms of nervous system disruption, such as tremors. There is recent evidence that breast-cancer cells proliferate at accelerated rates when exposed to pyrethroids. Human health effects may be most severe for developing human unborn babies and young children, and include endocrine disruption, immune system suppression and nervous system effects.

A recent Duke University study shows that exposure to DEET, the active ingredient in most insect repellents, and the synthetic pyrethroid; insecticide permethrin causes more damage when used in combination. The study showed the combination of DEET and permethrin induces apoptosis (cell death) in lab rats. The co-author of this study warns that DEET should not be mixed with any chemicals including medications.

***Why spraying pesticides doesn't work very well.** Rapid development of pest resistance to pyrethroids is well documented. Overall efficacy (how well the pesticides actually work) is very low. Repeat spraying is necessary to overcome rapid mosquito rebound. Natural mosquito predators are also killed but rebound much slowly than mosquitoes, setting the stage for future mosquito population explosions.

***Sustained use of insecticides puts the environment at considerable risk.** Synthetic pyrethroids are toxic to many beneficial insects including all bees and honeybees, butterflies, and other essential pollinators. Where substances have been shown to have the potential for health and environmental damage, they should not be used.

Information by: Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), www.vpirg.org (they have links to other West Nile sources).

Steps individuals can take to minimize local mosquito populations and prevent bites:

- Get rid of any unnecessary items on your property that can hold stagnant water, such as old tires.
- Empty water from buckets, toys, and containers, and store them in places where they will not collect rain.
- Drain water from birdbaths, fountains, wading pools, plant pots and drip trays twice a week.
- Check for other ways water may be collecting around your house, such as gutters, standing water on flat roofs, and puddles beneath air conditioners.
- Clear vegetation and trash from drains, culverts, ponds or streams on your property so that water drains properly.
- Eliminate standing water in your basement.
- Make sure window and door screens fit properly and replace outdoor lights with yellow "bug lights".
- Individuals with compromised immune systems and the elderly can take maximum personal precautions against WNV such as using bed nets and mosquito proof clothing.
- Rather than using repellents containing DEET, Beyond Pesticides recommends products containing geraniol (Mosquito Safe), citronella (Natrapel) or a combination of soybeans, geranium & coconut oils (Bite Blocker). New study shows catnip oil as a effective mosquito repellent but may need to be reapplied throughout the day.

IMPORTANT: If, in the event, a pesticide spray program does occur in Michigan and if you feel you have been chemically injured or made ill as a result of the pesticides, please report your injuries to the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP) in Washington, D. C., Phone: (202) 543-5450

For more information regarding mosquitoes and pesticides, go to NCAMPS web site: www.beyondpesticides.org

To voice your health concerns and objections to pesticide use, call/contact/email your County Environmental Health Department at:

Macomb County: Phone: (583) 469-5235 or email at www.co.macomb.mi.us
Oakland County: Phone: (248) 858-1280 or email at www.co.oakland.mi.us

Washtenaw County: Phone: (734) 222-3800 or email at eWashtenaw.org
Wayne County: Phone: (313) 224-3620 or email at www.wcdoe.org

PLEASE TEAR OFF BOTTOM HALF AND RETAIN TOP FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Exemption from Spray Request Form

TO: Mr. Ken Rauscher, Director, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909

If West Nile virus or any other mosquito borne virus is detected in my area, please ensure the following property is not sprayed with synthetic pyrethroids or other synthetic pesticides in any virus mosquito control spray programs.

Owner/Resident: _____ Telephone: _____

Property Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Email: _____ Signature: _____

Please confirm this request in writing

Please confirm this request by email.

Send original request form to:
Mr. Ken Rauscher, Director
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

Send copy of this to:
STOP THE PESTICIDES
c/o THE GREEN HOUSE
22757 Woodward Ave., Suite 210
Ferndale, MI 48220