



The State of California Wants To Expose **You** To Toxic Pesticides.



The California Dept of Food and Agriculture is going to come by to install “twist ties” impregnated with dangerous chemicals on your property or residence as part of the Light Brown Apple Moth Eradication Project. The CDFA is doing this twist tie application in your area because they have detected one or more LBAM within 200 meters of your property or residence. This moth is a tiny moth, about ¼” long. It is a “leaf roller” that makes its living as a caterpillar by eating holes in leaves. Although LBAM has many natural predators and has been in CA for decades without causing significant crop damage, the CDFA says it’s necessary to eradicate the LBAM and has subjected areas of Northern CA to quarantine and aerial spraying. In areas such as Sonoma, where few LBAM have been detected, the CDFA has opted to use “twist ties” instead of aerial spraying, but they may decide to use aerial spray in Sonoma if the twist ties don’t work to eradicate the LBAM. Many scientists not associated with the CDFA have said that using pheromones to eradicate the LBAM won’t work in part because the LBAM is too well established over too wide an area in CA. The effectiveness of the pheromone in disrupting the mating of the LBAM is also in question.

In San Jose on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 it was revealed that property owners have the right to refuse to have twist ties placed on their property, as was so with the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter program, a related program, also run by many of the same CDFA career pesticide programmers.

Why be concerned about the twist ties being placed near you? The twist ties are composed of approximately 70% liquid, artificial “pheromone” designed to confuse the mating habits of the LBAM. This liquid, along with other undisclosed ingredients, is contained within a volatile casing material that looks like electrical wire insulation, but is designed to evaporate slowly over a 3-6 month period. Although the manufacturer claims that there are no relevant safety limits that have to be observed regarding exposure of humans to the chemicals contained in the twist ties, it is clear that the chemicals in the twist ties have not been subjected to rigorous safety review by the EPA, as the MSDS for the twist ties clearly states that the twist ties are an unregistered product only approved for use in CA. This approval is obtained under an emergency exemption that bypasses the usual environmental review process. According to the twist tie MSDS, the twist tie chemicals can be irritating to the eyes or skin and you should wash your hands after handling a twist tie before eating or smoking. At the meeting in San Jose on April 29, 2008 a CDFA representative promised that the chemical names of all of the ingredients would be disclosed. But in fact we have only been given access to the active ingredients, some of the same ones found in the Checkmate sprayed aerially over Monterey and Santa Cruz. The rest are considered “proprietary”, secret ingredients, so we do not even have the ability to have independent scientists evaluate them. Synergism between chemicals has not been evaluated.

History has shown that levels of toxic chemicals in the environment that were once thought to be “safe” have since proven not to be. This experiment with using a pheromone to eradicate the LBAM seems to be progressing along those same lines. Over 600 people in Santa Cruz and Monterey complained of adverse health effects after the aerial spraying to combat the LBAM that occurred in September through November 2007. Some of the same chemicals are applied at the same rates per acre for both the twist ties and the aerial spraying. There are also some initial reports of people being sickened by the twist ties and the traps also containing the synthetic “pheromones” (trap lures’ pheromones are manufactured by Suterra, manufacturer of Checkmate. Suterra has refused to supply ANY ingredients for these lures). It also is possible that cats and children who climb trees may encounter the twist ties or traps and be more directly exposed and cats may claw at the twist ties or traps and drag chemicals into the house. It is for these reasons that you might choose to refuse twist ties or traps around you. If you do allow twist ties to be placed on your property, or if you notice that your neighbor has them, and you experience what you think may be symptoms related to the placement of the twist ties, please contact reactiontospraying@yahoo.com and visit <http://www.lbamspray.com/ClaimProcess.htm> to find out how to file an official complaint. If you suspect a pesticide illness, your doctor is required to notify your county health dept. within 24 hours.

For more information on the LBAM eradication program in Sonoma, visit the CDFA’s web site at http://cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/twist_tie_treatment_maps.html and Don’t Spray California, at www.dontspraycalifornia.org for toxicology, descriptions of all of the CDFA and USDA’s chemical program, sickness info, and wine country drift photos and info.

