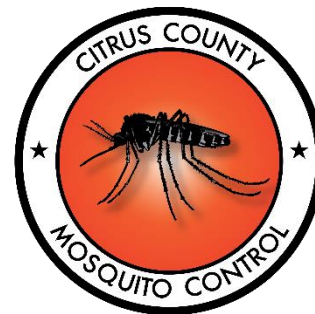


PRESS RELEASE

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Butterflies, Bees and Mosquito Control

The Citrus County Mosquito Control District (“the District”) understands the vital role that pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies play in nature. Therefore, every effort is made through the use of Integrated Pest Management to protect these beneficial insects while still providing mosquito control to help protect the public from mosquito borne disease and illness. There are numerous best practices and procedures that the District uses to balance controlling mosquitoes while preventing adverse effects to non-target species.

First and foremost, the District strives to reduce the need to apply adulticides (products used to kill adult mosquitoes) by concentrating on larval control efforts to prevent their emergence from aquatic breeding habitats. Many of the Districts larvicides are a form of biological control because the active ingredients used to kill mosquito larvae are derived from ingredients that are naturally present in the environment. These larvicides are highly target specific and are deemed by the EPA to pose no unreasonable risks to human health or the environment when used according to the pesticides label. Two bio-larvicides that the District utilizes are *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) and Spinosad.

Another biological control that the District uses is *Gambusia* (mosquito fish). These native minnows are introduced to mosquito breeding habitats to feed on mosquito larvae and are one of the best forms of mosquito control available.

In times of increased mosquito activity, it does become necessary for the District to apply adulticides but there are certain measures taken to prevent adversely affecting non-target insects and pollinators.

The District utilizes Ultra Low Volume (ULV) spray applications to control adult mosquitoes using mostly Pyrethroids. The equipment used to disperse the ULV spray is calibrated to produce extremely small droplets, in the range of 20 microns, that specifically targets flying mosquitoes. Ultra Low Volume is just what it sounds like. Only .28 ounce, about a teaspoon and a half, is enough product to treat one acre and ULV trucks are run from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active and pollinators such as bees and butterflies are less or not active. The District also maintains a list of beehive locations throughout the county to avoid applying adulticides within the vicinity of these hives and encourages commercial and backyard beekeepers to update the District when hives are placed or relocated.

By concentrating control efforts on reducing larval mosquito populations, using ULV applications, timing applications to avoid non-targets and improving communication with the public, Citrus County Mosquito Control District has been and will continue to balance public health and environmental stewardship.

For videos and additional information pertaining to butterflies, bees and mosquito control, see the District’s pinned post at facebook.com/citrusmosquito

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