



**SHORT SUBJECTS
AND TIMELY TIPS
FOR PESTICIDE USERS**

Topic	Page No.
BIOLOGICAL CONTROL, IPM, AND EXOTIC PESTS PEST CONTROL	
Supervisors Take Action to Abate Severe Fire Hazard Created by Beetle-Infested Trees	1-2
New Discoveries Could Help Manage Red Imported Fire Ants	2
REGULATORY	
U.S. Government Nominates Critical Use Exemptions for Methyl Bromide	2-3
HUMAN HEALTH	
West Nile Virus Fact Sheet	3
Center for Disease Control’s Second National Report on Human Exposure To Environmental Chemicals	3
MISCELLANEOUS	
Special Technology Projects – FY 2003	3
Aerial Application Equipment Guide 2003	4
Missoula Technology & Development Center Portable Vehicle Washer – Interim Report	4
Understanding Invasive Aquatic Weeds – Homework and Classroom Activities for the 5 th Grade	4
ON THE INTERNET	5
PUBLICATIONS	5-6
VIDEOS	6
UPCOMING EVENTS	6-7
CALL FOR ARTICLES	8

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BIOLOGICAL CONTROL, IPM, AND EXOTIC PESTS PEST CONTROL

**SUPERVISORS TAKE ACTION TO ABATE SEVERE FIRE HAZARD
CREATED BY BEETLE-INFESTED TREES**

(Source: News Release, First District, San Bernardino County, April 8, 2003)

“SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today stepped up its efforts to help mountain communities victimized by a bark beetle infestation and resulting severe fire danger by approving an action plan that includes the expenditure of more than \$3 million in federal and local funds.”

The plan includes efforts to do the following: Mapping mountain areas to determine priority of tree removal; Removing dead trees and associated debris, with an emphasis along fire evacuation routes and organizing removal crews by blocks; Purchasing equipment, including a wood chipper, two incinerator devices, and a track-mounted log loader; Assisting low-income homeowners in reducing the cost of tree removal; and Developing a public education campaign, and studying the possibility of developing a special local public financing district to provide additional funds to deal with tree removal on non-federal and non-state lands.

A copy of the news release is available online at

<http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/bosd1/PressReleases/BarkBeetlePlanRelease.pdf>

or contact Pat Skyler (916) 454-0817. For additional information –

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(909) 387-4830

NEW DISCOVERIES COULD HELP MANAGE RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS

(by Jim Core)

(Source: *ARS News & Information* online, 2003, 2 pp.)

The Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) fire ant research team's recent findings "could help find new environmentally friendly ways to control" imported fire ants. David Williams, head of the ARS fire ant research in Gainesville, FL "is searching for potential viruses and other biological controls against the fire ant." A parasitic ant, *Solenopsis dagueirei*, is just one of the biocontrols being studied. Another is the pathogen *Thelohania solenopsae*, a single-cell protozoan parasite from South America. A recently discovered disease, which has been named yellow head disease, is also being investigated as a potential biocontrol. The article is available online at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/030210.htm> or contact Pat Skyler (916) 454-0817, pskyler@fs.fed.us. For additional information -

CONTACT: DAVID WILLIAMS (FL)

(352) 374-5903

dwilliams@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu

REGULATORY

U.S. GOVERNMENT NOMINATES CRITICAL USE EXEMPTIONS FOR METHYL BROMIDE

(Source: EPA Press Release, February 7, 2003)

"The U.S. Government today transmitted its formal nomination for 'critical use exemptions' from the phase-out of methyl bromide. Methyl bromide is a relied-upon agricultural fumigant that, because it depletes stratospheric ozone, is scheduled to be phased-out by developed countries by 2005 in accordance with the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*. The Montreal Protocol contains a provision for countries to request exemptions for uses of methyl bromide for which there are no technical or economically feasible alternatives."

"The United States is submitting a two-year exemption request to begin in 2005. This request is based on an extensive and rigorous joint EPA and U.S. Department of Agriculture technical review process involving dozens of specialists with extensive experience in relevant sciences. The U.S. request for 2005 is for 39% of our baseline consumption of methyl bromide, which is substantially

below the most recent year's consumption. Our request will decline to 37% in 2006, reflecting our commitment to ozone layer protection and the likelihood that additional alternatives will be registered and available for use by then."

The press release along with a fact sheet are available online at http://www.epa.gov/ozone/MeBr_Press_Release.pdf or contact Pat Skyler (916) 454-0817, pskyler@fs.fed.us. For additional information, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr/> or –

CONTACT: OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS (DC)

(202) 564-9828

HUMAN HEALTH

WEST NILE VIRUS FACT SHEET

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Community Relations, has a general fact sheet on West Nile Virus that is available in 17 languages. The English version can be accessed online at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wnv/wnvfaq1.html> or contact Pat Skyler (916) 454-0817, pskyler@fs.fed.us.

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL'S SECOND NATIONAL REPORT ON HUMAN EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS

The Center for Disease Control's Second National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals is now available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/> (a 6-page summary of the report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/pdf/nersummary.pdf>). The first report issued in March 2001, provided data on lead, mercury, cadmium, and other metals; dialkylphosphate metabolites of organophosphate pesticides; cotinine; and phthalates. This second report, released in January 2003, presents exposure data from NHANES 1999-2000 for 116 chemicals, including expanded information on the 27 chemicals listed in the first report and 89 new chemicals. For more information or printed copies of the summary –

CONTACT: CDC (GA)

1-866-670-6052 (toll free)
ncehdls@cdc.gov

MISCELLANEOUS

SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS FY 2003

Fiscal Year 2003 funding for the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, Special Technology Development Program (STDP) was announced on March 26, 2003. The program received 24 requests for continued funding of existing STDP projects and 31 requests to fund new projects. Funding was approved for 15 new project proposals and all 24 existing projects. For a list of the new and continuing projects or for additional information –

CONTACT: MARLA DOWNING (CO)

(970) 295-5843
mdowning@fs.fed.us

AERIAL APPLICATION EQUIPMENT GUIDE 2003

(Bill Kilroy, Dick Karsky, and Harold Thistle)

The result of a cooperative effort between the USDA Forest Service, Missoula Technology Development Center and the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team this guide provides a broad overview of equipment and procedures common to most aerial spray projects. Both liquid and dry chemical operations are included, as are fixed- and rotor-wing aircraft. Part I covers the system components and the procedures necessary to prepare the aircraft for a spray operation. Part II lists the fixed- and rotor-wing aircraft that may be used for aerial application. Although the emphasis is on aircraft commonly operating in North America, many foreign makes are also included.

If you would like a copy of this free publication –

CONTACT: PAT SKYLER (CA)

(916) 454-0817

pskyler@fs.fed.us

MISSOULA TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT CENTER PORTABLE VEHICLE WASHER Interim Report

(Trent, A., D. Karsky, and S. Gilmour. 2002. 0234-2836-MTDC)

This report “describes a prototype vehicle washer that is mounted on a flatbed trailer and can be towed by a ¾-ton pickup truck. The washer is designed to be used at fire camps where weed seeds need to be removed from the underbody and body of vehicles before and after the vehicles leave the area. Operators use two high-pressure wands to wash the vehicle’s sides, wheels, and wheel wells. The vehicle’s underbody is washed when the vehicle drives over an oscillating, high pressure, underbody washer. An industrial rubber mat with foam-filled barriers on all sides confines the wash water, which is filtered before being reused. The prototype washer was tested from August 6 to 9 when a fire camp was being demobilized near Darby, MT. It took 2 to 3 minutes to wash a standard pickup truck, sport utility vehicle, or car. It took another minute or so to wash hotshot crew vehicles, fire engines, and a school bus. The wash water supply tank had to be refilled three times (about 175 gallons per refill) to wash 74 vehicles.”

For a copy of this technical report contact Jerry Wolf (406) 329-3978, Email:
wo_mtdc_pubs@fs.fed.us. For further technical information –

CONTACT: ANDY TRENT (MT)

(406) 329-3912

atrent@fs.fed.us

UNDERSTANDING INVASIVE AQUATIC WEEDS – HOMEWORK AND CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR THE 5TH GRADE

This 16-page booklet contains information and activities about aquatic ecology and the major weeds affecting North American aquatic ecosystems. Free copies of the book may be ordered by sending an email to scott.aquarium@usm.edu (request “Understanding Invasive Aquatic Weeds”), or JPG images may be downloaded and printed from the following website:
<http://www.apms.org/book/activity.htm>. If you have questions or want additional information -

CONTACT: JEFF SCHARDT (FL)

(850) 245-4815

jeff.schardt@dep.state.fl.us

ON THE INTERNET

Please note the following new web addresses: USDA Forest Service, **Region 5, State and Private Forestry** <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/spf>; USDA Forest Service, **Region 5, Remote Sensing Lab** <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/rs/>; and USDA Forest Service, **Region 5** <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5>.

Report to the California Oak Mortality Task Force - April 2003 is available on the web at <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org> or contact Lucia Briggs (510) 642-5938, lbriggs@nature.berkeley.edu.

PUBLICATIONS*

Dow Agrosiences. 2003. Saltcedar invasive fact sheet. 2 pp.

DeLoach, C.J., P.A. Lewis, J.C. Herr, R.I. Carruthers, J.L. Tracy, and J. Johnson. Host specificity of the leaf beetle, *Diorhabda elongata deserticola* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) from Asia, a biological control agent for saltcedars (*Tamarix*: Tamaricaceae) in the western United States. 2003. *Biological Control* 27:117-147. (Available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journals>)

Levien, L., C. Fischer, L. Mahon, S. Parks, B. Maurizi, J. Suero, P. Longmire, and P. Roffers. Monitoring land cover changes in California: North Coast project area. 2003. USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Fire and Resource Assessment Program. 233 pp.

Lewis, P.A., C.J. DeLoach, J.C. Herr, T.L. Dudley, and R.I. Carruthers. 2003. Assessment of risk to native *Frankenia* shrubs from an Asian leaf beetle, *Diorhabda elongata deserticola* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), introduced for biological control of saltcedars (*Tamarix* spp.) in the western United States. *Biological Control* 27:148-166. (Available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journals>)

Lewis, P.A., C.J. DeLoach, A.E. Knutson, J.L. Tracy, and T.O. Robbins. 2003. Biology of *Diorhabda elongata deserticola* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), an Asian leaf beetle for biological control of saltcedars (*Tamarix* spp.) in the United States. *Biological Control* 27:101-116. (Available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journals>)

Li, J., W.G. Johnson, and R.J. Smeda. 2002. Interactions between glyphosate and imazethapyr on four annual weeds. *Crop Protection* 21:1087-1092.

Mays, W.T. and L.T. Kok. 2003. Population dynamics and dispersal of two exotic biological control agents of spotted knapweed, *Urophora affinis* and *U. quadrifasciata* (Diptera: Tephritidae), in southwestern Virginia from 1986 to 2000. *Biological Control* 27:43-52. (Available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journals>)

McNeely, J. 2001. Invasive species: A costly catastrophe for native biodiversity. *Land Use and Water Resources Research* 1, 2, 10 pp. (Available online at <http://www.luwrr.com/uploads/paper01-02.pdf>).

Monheit, S. 2002. Glyphosate-based aquatic herbicides – An overview of risk. *Noxious Times*, Vol. 4, No. 4, pp. 5-9. The newsletter and article are available online at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/noxioustimes/pdfs/summer2002.pdf>.

Smith, L. and J.M. Story. 2003. Plant size preference of *Agapeta zoegana* L. (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), a root-feeding biological control agent of spotted knapweed. *Biological Control* 26:270-278. (Available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journals>)

Wikler, K., A.J. Storer, W. Newman, T.R. Gordon, and D.L. Wood. 2002. The dynamics of an introduced pathogen in a native Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) forest. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 6130:1-13 (Article in Press).

Wood, D.L., T.W. Koerber, R.F. Scharpf, and A.J. Storer. 2003. Pests of the native California conifers. Available from the University of California Press. For prices and ordering information call 1-800-777-4726 or Email: orders@cpfs.pupress.princeton.edu.

*Note: For information on how to obtain a copy of a publication contact Pat Skyler (916) 454-0817, pskyler@fs.fed.us.

VIDEOS

Asian Longhorned Beetle: First Line of Defense. Available from the USDA Forest Service video library. To order call 1-800-683-8366.

Stop Exotics: Clean your boat. Features John Ratzenberger, a.k.a. Cliff from Cheers. Shows boaters how to clean their boats to prevent spread of invasive species. Produced in Minnesota, approx. 11 minutes. For more information contact Minnesota Sea Grant, 2305 E. 5th Street, Duluth, MN 55812, (218) 726-8106, Email: seagr@d.umn.edu.

Yellow Starthistle, Managing An Invasive Alien Species. Includes information on background and biology, control methods, and the future of yellow starthistle control. Produced by Xenobiota Xposures, approx. 50 minutes. For ordering information and price, visit their website at <http://www.xenob.com> or Email: leif@xenob.com.

Brooms: Managing Invasive Alien Shrubs. Includes information on background and biology of Scotch, French, Portuguese, Spanish brooms and Gorse; control methods and volunteer programs. Produced by Xenobiota Xposures, approx. 45 minutes. For ordering information and price, visit their website at <http://www.xenob.com> or Email: leif@xenob.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

5-9 May 2003. Advanced Herbicide Application Course, Mesa, AZ. The course is sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection. Contact: Jesus Cota (703) 605-5333, jcota@fs.fed.us or visit their website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/pesticide/training.htm>.

14-15 May 2003. California Forest Pest Council, Southern California Insect and Disease Committee meeting and field tour. Contact: Kathleen Edwards (909) 659-3337, Kathleen.Edwards@fire.ca.gov or visit their website at <http://www.caforestpestcouncil.org/>.

15-18 June 2003. 2nd Annual Precision Forestry Symposium, Seattle, WA. Contact: Forestry Continuing Education Program (206) 543-0867 or visit their website at <http://www.cfr.washington.edu/outreach/PreFor/>.

6-11 July 2003. 15th International Plant Protection Congress, Beijing, China. Contact: William Chen (86-10) 6210 3108, Email: cicast@public.bta.net.cn or visit their website at <http://www.plantprotection.org/15THIPPC.htm>.

20-23 July 2003. The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Portland, ME. Contact: Ken Manuel, Program Chair, (704) 875-5424, Email: klmanuel@duke-energy.com or visit their website at <http://www.apms.org/2003/2003.htm>.

23-24 July 2003. Joint field tour of the California Forest Pest Council (CFPC) Weed Committee and the California Forest Soils Council, Auburn, CA. Contact: Bill Morrison (530) 272-2297, Email: bmorrison@spi-ind.com or visit the CFPC website at <http://www.caforestpestcouncil.org/>.

27-30 July 2003. American Society of Agricultural Engineers 2003 Annual International Meeting, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Sharon McKnight, (269) 428-6333, mcknight@asae.org or visit their website at <http://www.asae.org/meetings/am2003/index.html>.

7-9 September 2003. Regional Conference on Agricultural Health and Safety Issues – Challenges in Agricultural Health and Safety, San Francisco, CA. Contact: Gwen Oliver (530) 752-5253, or visit their website at <http://agcenter.ucdavis.edu/Announce/AgChallenges2003.php> and select “News and Events”.

7-11 September 2003. 226th American Chemical Society National Meeting (ACS), New York City, NY. Contact: Dr. Chris Peterson (662) 325-0199, cjpeterson@fs.fed.us, Dr. Terry Spittler (315) 787-2283, tds2@cornell.edu or visit the ACS website at <http://membership.acs.org/a/agro> and scroll to the middle of the page.

8-11 September 2003. Biennial National Silviculture Workshop, Silver Creek, CO. Contact: Monty Maldonado (202) 205-5683 or Clark Baldwin (703) 605-5178.

17-20 September 2003. American Forests: The National Urban Forest Conference, San Antonio, TX. Contact: Donna Tschiffely (703) 904-6932, Email: donna@amfor.org or visit their website at <http://www.americanforests.org/graytogreen/conference>.

21-28 September 2003. XII World Forestry Congress, Quebec, Canada. Contact: 1 (418) 694-2424, Fax: 1 (418) 694-9922, Email: sec-gen@wfc2003.org or visit their website at <http://www.wfc2003.org/>.

25-29 October 2003. Society of American Foresters National Convention, Buffalo, NY. Contact: Madelaine Morgan (301) 897-8720, ext. 111, Email: morganm@safnet.org or visit their website at <http://www.safnet.org/convention/>.

3-6 November 2003. Western Forest Insect Work Conference, Guadalajara, Mexico. Contact: Mike Wagner, Email: mike.wagner@nau.edu or visit their website at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/wfiwc/>.

3-7 November 2003. Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems: Linking Science and Management and 7th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Contact: Nelroy Jackson, (909) 279-7787, Email: nelroy.e.Jackson@monsanto.com or Carla D’Antonio (510) 643-6341, Email: dantonio@socrates.berkeley.edu or visit their website at <http://esa.org/ipinams-emapi7/>.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Please forward to me all articles, meeting announcements, publications, reports, or other items of interest that you would like included in the next issue of Short Subjects & Timely Tips for Pesticide Users. Please include the name, State, and telephone number of the individual who can be contacted for further information:

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The Washington Office, Forest Health Protection, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team sponsors, compiles, edits, and distributes this informal information letter as a means of providing current information to forestry pesticide users. Recent copies can be viewed online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/pesticide/news.htm>. Comments, questions, and items of input are welcome and may be sent to Pat Skyler, Editor, USDA Forest Service, Remote Sensing Lab, 1920 20th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or by E-mail: pskyler@fs.fed.us. Reference to a commercial product or source in this information letter does not constitute endorsement by the USDA Forest Service. Information should be verified by contacting the original source of information as neither the editor nor the USDA Forest Service guarantees the accuracy of the information provided in this information letter. Pesticides can be injurious to humans, domestic animals, desirable plants, and fish or wildlife if they are not handled or applied properly. Use all pesticides in accordance with label precautions.

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