

INSECTICIDE OR ORGANIC ????

In late summer of 2002, the Forest Service announced its plans to spray Carbaryl (Sevin) insecticide on "high value" Ponderosa pine trees in the Prescott area in the Spring of 2003. This same scenario happened in the White Mountains. Due to the negative public response and the lack of time, the spraying (at \$65.00 a tree) did not occur. I hope the citizen's response again here in the White Mountains is the same. **Carbaryl can only kill the insect through its ingestion of the chemical, not just contact with the chemical. It does nothing to enhance the health of the tree.** Carbaryl has a half-life of 2 months which means that half the substance is reduced by natural processes within 2 months for \$65.00 a tree. According to Colorado State University, Carbaryl (Sevin) lasts only 10 to 14 days. **The entire tree must be covered with Carbaryl.** It can not be applied on a windy day (5-7 m.p.h.) since residual may drift to non-target plants or contaminate water sources. Carbaryl is slightly to moderately toxic to birds, extremely toxic to bees, has shown teratogenic (causes of birth defects) effects in pregnant dogs and has been declared a **POTENTIAL HUMAN CARCINOGEN** (cancer causing) by the UK Government Committee on Carcinogenicity. Usage has been restricted and some approvals revoked. Inert ingredients in Carbaryl formulations include formaldehyde (possible carcinogen), petroleum distillates (toxic if swallowed, may cause chemical pneumonitis (inflammation of the lung), and crystalline silica (may be a carcinogen). The above information on Carbaryl (Sevin) is from a U.S. Forest Service Publication. Need I say more?

Now back to the health of our trees. In the summer of 2002, The White Mountain Independent printed an article with a byline of, **"Experimental Process Could Save Trees"**. **It was NOT an experimental process then, nor is it now!** It has been a proven process from the start. This summer, we began our third year of saving trees in the White Mountains with Vita organic products, **Vita Agri/VPX** and **Vita Planta Pro**. These products are USDA National Organic Program Compliant and certified to be used for organic applications worldwide. We have saved literally thousands of trees, with and without beetle infestation. Quite simply, these products feed and hydrate the trees bringing them to a state of health that enables them to resist insect infestations. The Natural Selective Removal of Trees (selective thinning) is our first step in helping the trees. We are the only company that addresses **the health of the trees**. Our business has been successful through word-of-mouth from our customers. This could not be happening if these products did not work. Yes, we cut down, remove and chip dead trees. However, we prefer to save trees rather than let the beetle dictate which trees must be removed. The property owner should have the right to make that decision.

It is time to put the word out that there is something that can be done to beat this beetle infestation besides standing by helplessly with a chain saw to see which tree will be the next to die. Hydration of the trees is necessary due to the drought conditions. **THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THESE PRODUCTS DO!** Thinning is not the complete answer, and spraying of insecticides does absolutely nothing for the health of the tree. I have spoken to the "experts" and attended seminars concerning forestry, entomology and agriculture; I will continue to do so. I hope you will print this letter in its entirety, not for the promotion of our business, but as a Public Service to inform people that there is an organic alternative to chain saws and insecticides.

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Vita Certified Sprayer Recommendations for Lawn & Landscape Professionals

Signed/Dated by company officer or management:

Confidentiality Agreement

Authorized Independent Contractor Contract

Insurance: (Recommended & Highly Suggested)

Commercial General Liability

\$500,000.00 per occurrence

\$2,000,000.00 General Aggregate

\$500,000.00 Products Aggregate

Comprehensive Automobile Liability:

\$1,000,000.00 Combined Single Limit

Equipment: Minimum Recommendations

1000 gallon tank & trailer or a 500 gallon tank & trailer with surge brakes

1000 gallon tank & trailer or a 500 gallon tank & trailer with electric brakes for gooseneck

Non skid paint

Mini manifold

Break away hydrant fill pipe

2 ½ " X 25' Hydrant Fill Hose, wrench

30 gpm pump Honda 4.5 HP Min-Recommend 5.5 HP Honda w/Multiquip Qp204H 2"

Centrifugal Pump S/N (High Pressure Pump)

Electric Cox or Reelcraft reel (060113-442) (hand crank option) with trickle charger connection to battery w/ on-off toggle switch

100 feet of hose plus a minimum of 2 (4)-1" 50 foot length hoses with Quick Disconnects (Total 200 ft) We recommend a total of 300 feet of hose

Flow Meter-John C. Ernst Company Model 318-07-N-100

Sealfast.com red plastic nozzle (or equivalent) model number 02-403-32 or 33

Options:

Storage Box

Hose Package includes 1 1/2" X 50' fire hose, 2 1/2 " X 25' Hydrant fill hose, wrench & nozzle

Self Loading kit (to fill from a lake, etc)

Additional Professional Materials:

Dry Spreader-Agri-fab #125 Model #45-02102 or equivalent

Electronic NPK Meter-Rapitest 1869-General testing on initial visit

Nasco Soil Test Kit-C-25446 (Good) & C-25448 (Best)

Certification or Related Experience:

2 years minimum in horticulture/arboriculture/entomology or related field

Marketing Materials:

All marketing materials are subject to review and approval by Vita Products prior to dissemination