



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

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PRESS RELEASE

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Emergency Legislation Limits Spraying for Browntail Moths

AUGUSTA—On April 12, for the second year, Governor Baldacci signed into law emergency legislation to protect marine organisms. The law limits the public or private application of pesticides to control browntail moths. Key points of P.L. 2007, Chapter 50, are as follows:

- Only the coastal areas of Cumberland, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and York counties are affected.
- Pesticides cannot be applied on shade or ornamental trees within 50 feet of the mean high water mark in coastal areas.
- Restrictions do not apply to biological pesticides, the injection of pesticides into the soil or shade or ornamental trees, or to the application of pesticides by licensed commercial pesticide applicators using nonpowered equipment.
- Pesticides cannot be applied on shade or ornamental trees in coastal areas located between 50 and 250 feet from the mean high water mark except as follows:
 - Only the products with the active ingredients diflubenzuron (Dimilin[®]), permethrin (Astro[™]), tau-fluvalinate (Mavrik[®]), or cyfluthin (Tempo[®]) can be applied.
 - Only a hydraulic, hand-held spray gun or airblast sprayer can be used for application.
 - Spray must be directed away from marine waters.
 - Applications cannot be made when the wind is blowing toward marine waters or is less than 2 miles per hour.
- Commercial applicators must notify the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) between 48 and 18 hours in advance of using air-assisted sprayers.
- The BPC will monitor applications of pesticides using airblast sprayers and, in cooperation with the Department of Marine Resources, may sample marine waters and sediments in coastal areas where pesticides are applied.
- The BPC will be developing rules to continue these restrictions beyond 2007.

The complete law can be viewed at: <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/chapters/PUBLIC50.asp>.

Maine Forest Service State Entomologist, Dave Struble, says “Browntail moth populations are markedly down this year. With the exception of a few spots in the midcoast, there is no biological need to spray for browntail moth control. Any spraying that is done should be carefully considered on a case-by-case basis.”

With any questions or for more information, contact the BPC at 207-287-2731.

The Maine Board of Pesticides Control is the lead state agency for pesticide regulation. It is an administrative unit of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources with policy decisions made by a seven-member, public board.

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