MOSQUITO-SPRAYING COMPANIES USE HARMFUL INSECTICIDE!

PERMETHRIN is a **synthetic pyrethroid** insecticide and neurotoxin that is used by local mosquito-spraying companies. Although this insecticide is more acutely toxic to children than to adults, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified it as a human carcinogen that has been shown to cause immune system damage as well as birth defects.

Acute health effects appear shortly after exposure to these pesticides and can include: skin and eye irritations, headaches, dizziness and nausea, weakness, difficulty breathing, mental confusion and disorientation, seizures, coma, and death. Chronic health effects such as cancer, and damage to the nervous, reproductive, and immune-systems, may not be apparent until months or years after exposure.

Pyrethroids, such as permethrin, are highly toxic to fish, aquatic invertebrates, crustaceans, bees, and small birds. For that reason, the EPA has established restrictions that prohibit their direct application to areas within 100 feet of lakes, steams, rivers, or bays.

REGI, our local bird-rescuing organization, has seen an influx of infected birds ever since the mosquito companies began spraying in our area. It's sad to see helpless little birds fight for their lives!

For more information: https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/mosquito/documents/citizens

THE SCIENCE OF MOSQUITO CONTROL

by David Hardt

In the 1940s and1950s, DDT was widely used in an attempt to control mosquito populations. This chemical was sprayed in the jungles of Southeast Asia and in our local neighborhoods in an effort to control mosquito populations. The result: the more they sprayed, the more the mosquitoes became resistant to the spray. It turns out that because mosquitoes live in such high numbers, there will always be a small percentage of the population that genetically will be resistant to the spray. Out of a thousand mosquitoes only about 100 may survive, but these 100 will produce 200 eggs each and, since their life cycle is only slightly longer than a week, after one week there will be a new population of 20,000 mosquitoes that are much more resistant to the spray. After another week, that 20,000 can become **4,000,000 spray-resistant mosquitoes!**

Also when spraying for mosquitoes, all insects are killed, including those that prey on mosquitoes, like **dragonflies**. So, after two weeks of spraying, there will be no dragonflies left to eat the 4,000,000 spray-resistant mosquitoes that are flying around.

Bats, and to some extent **Purple Martins**, also consume large numbers of mosquitoes. After chemical spraying there will be very few mosquitoes for them to eat temporarily, so the bats and purple martins will move on or perish, leaving low numbers of mosquito-eating bats and birds.

Some solutions: Avoid chemical spraying - it kills our dragonflies. Put up bat houses and Purple Martin houses. Get rid of standing-water areas on your property. Wear protective clothing. Use mosquito wipes. Stay indoors at dusk when mosquitoes are most active.