

"Duet Dual-Action® Adulicide"

Municipalities are encouraged to share this information with all residents in their community

This **Fact Sheet** answers some basic questions about mosquito control products in use in your county. Bergen County Mosquito Control, along with several other resources (listed at the end of this sheet), can provide more detailed information.

What is *Duet Dual-Action*® adulicide and how is it used?

Duet Dual-Action® contains two pesticides called ***Prallethrin*** and ***Sumithrin***, and a synergistic compound called ***piperonyl butoxide*** which increases the effectiveness of the pesticides. Prallethrin and Sumithrin are members of a category of pesticides called ***pyrethroids***, which in turn are synthetic versions of pesticides produced by plants called *pyrethrins*. Pyrethroid/piperonyl butoxide mixtures have been recommended for Ultra-Low-Volume (ULV) mosquito control in New Jersey by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) current evaluation considers pyrethroid-containing products to be slightly toxic with minimal potential risk to people when used properly as part of an integrated mosquito control program.

This pyrethroid-containing product is used for the control of adult mosquitoes. While habitat management and measures to control immature mosquitoes in water are preferred and most used, the spraying of adult mosquitoes is called for when biting populations reach critical levels or when a disease organism is present in adult mosquitoes. A very fine mist is sprayed into the air since flying mosquitoes must directly contact the pesticide in order for it to be effective. The combination of the two pesticides has been shown to produce what the manufacturer calls 'benign agitation'. In other words mosquitoes are agitated from a resting state to a non-biting flying state where they are more vulnerable to pesticide exposure. This makes *Duet Dual-Action*® adulicide more effective against hard-to-control species like *Aedes albopictus* which typically rest during the evening hours when adulticiding usually takes place.

How can I reduce my exposure to *Duet Dual-Action*®?

Because of the very small amounts of active ingredients released per acre, the risk to the general public from the use of pyrethroid-containing products is minimal. Avoiding exposure is always the safest course of action. Any possible exposure risk can be reduced by following some common sense actions:

- Pay attention to notices about spraying found through newspapers, websites, automated telephone messages or distributed by municipal, county or state agencies.
- Plan your activities to limit time spent outside during times of possible pesticide treatments.
- Move your pets, their food, and water dishes inside during ULV application. Also bring clothing and children's toys inside.
- Stay away from application equipment, whether in use or not.
- Whenever possible, remain indoors with windows closed and with window air conditioners on non-vent (closed to the outside air) and window fans turned off during spraying.

For state-wide mosquito control information:

NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination 609-292-3649

Spraying for adult mosquitoes is a last resort. Most mosquito control work goes on “behind the scenes”, using water management, fish, and products to control immature mosquitoes in the water where they begin their life cycle. Controlling adult mosquitoes is more difficult because they are spread out and moving.

If you have questions about Duet or any other mosquito control related products or practices, please feel free to call the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division at (201) 634-2880.