Facts on Abietiv™ (Balsam Fir Sawfly Nucleopolyhedrovirus)

What is Abietiv™

Abietiv™ is the trade name for the balsam fir sawfly control product that was tested by the Canadian Forest Service and submitted to, and approved by, Health Canada-Pest Management Regulatory Agency for operational use in reducing populations of this sawfly. Much of the field research with this naturally occurring control product has been conducted in western Newfoundland.

What is NeabNPV?

NeabNPV (a nucleopolyhedrovirus belonging to the Baculovirus group) is a naturally occurring biological control agent of the sawfly and is the active ingredient in Abietiv™. NeabNPV was field collected from balsam fir sawfly in western Newfoundland. NeabNPV has been suspected of causing the collapse of past balsam fir sawfly outbreaks.

How is Abietiv™ produced?

Production areas with high populations of sawfly larvae are treated with the product and infected sawfly larvae are then collected. NeabNPV is extracted in the laboratory from these diseased larvae and then produced into Abietiv™ that can be formulated and applied to trees infested by the damage causing balsam fir sawfly.

Has Abietiv™ (NeabNPV) been tested before in this Province?

NeabNPV was isolated from western Newfoundland in 1997 and has been tested in the province, on an experimental basis as part forest insect control programs, from 2000 to 2005. Over 22,500 hectares have been aerially treated during this time.

How much forested area is expected to be treated as part of the 2006 balsam fir sawfly operational control program?

Between 15,000 and 20,000 hectares of infested forest in western Newfoundland will be treated as part of the 2006 balsam fir sawfly control program. This program will be carried out by the provincial Department of Natural Resources - Forestry Services, subject to the necessary approvals from the provincial Department of Environment and Conservation.

What are the benefits of using NeabNPV (Abietiv™)?

NeabNPV occurs naturally in the balsam fir sawfly population. The registered control product Abietiv™ is derived from field collected sawfly larvae infected with this natural agent. The Control Program will introduce more of the natural control agent (NeabNPV) into the population with the purpose of causing an earlier collapse of the sawfly infestation and thereby minimizing the impact of this pest, particularly on silviculture and second growth balsam fir stands.

What impact does Abietiv™ (NeabNPV) have on the environment?

NeabNPV is a naturally occurring agent already found in the sawfly population. Research results indicate that NeabNPV is very specific and only affects this sawfly species and several other sawfly defoliators.

Will Abietiv™ affect other non-target organisms?

Tests carried out by, or on behalf of, the Canadian Forest Service, as part of the data package for federal registration, indicated no significant adverse impact on various indicator test species such as leafcutter bees, two leafrollers, honey bees, an aquatic crustacean (Daphnia), rats, mice and white rabbits. In addition, other research on the group to which NeabNPV belongs has shown no impact on plants.

What effect does Abietiv™ have on humans?

Because of the very specific nature of this product, there is no impact on humans.

Is it safe to eat fish, meat of game animals and berries from treated areas?

Yes. NeabNPV (Abietiv™) was isolated from and occurs naturally in the balsam fir sawfly population and its environment. Because this natural product has no impact on humans, vertebrates or plants, it is safe to eat fish, meat or berries from treated areas.

For Further Information Contact:

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