Spring 2018

Mosquito Misting Devices - A New Concern

If you haven't heard about mosquito misters, please be aware of the potential dangers that these devices pose. Mosquito misting systems are timed-release outdoor residential misting systems that disperse chemicals into your yard and potentially your neighbor's yard, putting other people, pets, wildlife and pollinators at risk.

These devices automatically spray the pesticide of one's choice on a continual basis. They are sometimes installed on yard perimeters or on fences where they will spray toxic pesticides every few minutes and at a height where **children, pets and even unsuspecting adults could be sprayed.**

Additionally, since it is likely that broad-spectrum pesticides will be used in these devices, **many non-target and beneficial insects will be at risk.** Bees and other pollinators already face a myriad of chemicals in their everyday habitats. And we know that many pesticides have a synergistic effect when combined with other pesticides and with other stressors that pollinators face.

Mosquito misters are not subject to any federal regulations because EPA does not regulate such equipment. These devices are considered "application equipment" and therefore are not regulated.

New York State is the only state in New England that has regulated the use of these devices. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has agreed that these devices should be regulated before people and/or animals are seriously hurt.

Proposed legislation will be raised in this year's session of the General Assembly to regulate these devices before summer. **Please support efforts to ban mosquito misters** by contacting your state legislator or the co-chairs of the State Environment Committee: craig.miner@cga.ct.gov; kennedy@senatedems.ct.gov and Mike.Demicco@cga.ct.gov.

Suggested alternatives: 1) burning citronella, beeswax and soy candles, 2) using a home-made or commercial garlic spray, 3) planting plants that repel mosquitoes such as sage, lemon balm and marigolds, 4) using pheromone based mosquito traps, and 5) putting up bat houses.

Protect Our Pollinators **www.propollinators.org**