

Mosquito Management

Larvicide - Bti: *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*

Killing mosquito larvae that hatch from eggs in saltmarshes reduces adult mosquito populations.

Bti - Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis is a naturally occurring soil bacterium. Bti is used as a larvicide to kill mosquito larvae before they can grow into adults that can bite people. Bti has been used for mosquito control for more than 30 years.

How Bti works:

Bti is specifically formulated to work on mosquito larvae. It must be ingested to be effective. Mosquito larvae are killed by ingesting the protein crystal, which is then broken down in the larval midgut. This results in gut paralysis and larval death. Bti occurs at a rapid rate, within 24 hours.

How Bti is used:

Bti can be used in granule or liquid form. Most often with aerial (helicopter) or backpack applications.

Bti in the environment:

Bti is naturally occurring and safe to the environment. Bti does not persist in soil or water.

- Bti is not toxic to people. It has not been shown to make people sick.
- Bti will not harm people, pets and other animals, aquatic life, or other insects, including bees.
- Subspecies of Bt formulas are approved for use in organic farming operations.
- Bti is very specific and only effects, mosquito larvae, black fly larvae, fungus gnats and midge.

★ **FIGHT** *the* **BITE** ★



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