

Aerial Spraying for Black Flies

By Becky Bartlett
EASTON - On Tuesday, May 26, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will conduct an aerial spraying for black flies (biting gnats) along the Delaware and Lehigh rivers beginning at 9:30 AM. The aerial spraying will utilize a helicopter to apply Vectobac 12AS, also known as B.t.i..

The Black Fly Suppression Program will treat the Delaware River near Yardley to north of Easton in Bucks and Northampton Counties as well as the Lehigh River from the dam in Easton to Glendon. The helicopter used for this operation will be a black Bell 206 Long Ranger with the tail numbers N651HA. The aircraft is operated by Helicopter Applicators of Gettysburg, PA. DEP personnel will be on site at all landing zones managing the operation.

Vectobac 12AS is manufactured by Valent Biosciences. It is a thick brown liquid resembling chocolate milk and has a fish odor to it. The B.t.i. material is a naturally occurring bacteria (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) which kills the immature, or larval, form of the black fly when they feed on it in the waterways. B.t.i. is not toxic to fish or other macroinvertebrates found in the treated waterways and it degrades quickly in the environment.

This work does NOT involve a helicopter spraying over the entire county. This work is targeted to portions of specifically mentioned waterways. The helicopter will apply B.t.i. to designated areas every few miles along the treated waterways. Application is done by first circling the area to look for people on the ground or obstructions in the air. Then, the helicopter will fly perpendicular to the water flow (whenever possible) and apply the B.t.i.

Black flies are considered a pest which can inundate people seeking outdoor recreation, especially around rivers and streams in the warmer months.



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We'll be using Zoom to host this meeting. You will need access to a computer so that you can see and hear us. A microphone or headset is important. A webcam is optional (but nice to have). You may want to test your settings a few minutes prior to joining us.

Join us for a live, virtual information session on April 29th.

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Ken Field

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Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Chill Out

The basic refrigeration cycle is the same today as it was when it was discovered.

That's because moving heat from one place to another is not an invention in itself but doing it efficiently requires some inventive thinking.

Much of the mystery of refrigeration surrounds the material that is inside the system.

At the very heart of the cycle is the known fact that compressing a gas generates heat.

But if that's the case how does it help an air conditioner work? Well, the other half of that cycle is based on the knowledge that when a liquid evaporates it absorbs heat. Just like perspiration evaporating from your skin cools you off, the refrigerant inside a refrigerator or air conditioner absorbs heat when it evaporates. Both units have an area called an evaporator and that is the place where the liquid meets a large open space. It passes through a small opening with high pressure behind it and when it gets into the big space where there is no pressure it instantly evaporates and in doing so, absorbs heat. At the end of that big space it is just a warm gas and needs to return to the compressor to have the heat squeezed out of it. The reason it is hard to understand is because we are only used to thinking about water when we think about evaporation. Solvents and gasoline evaporate faster than water at room temperature and that's why they feel cooler to the skin when you get them on you. Refrigerants evaporate at temperatures well below zero Fahrenheit. We carry them in pressurized steel containers and dispense them from them directly into a system. Just like a propane tank for your grille, if you shake it, there is definitely liquid inside but if you opened the valve, only gas would come out. Frost would also form on the container as the evaporating gas absorbed any heat nearby. Eventually many air conditioning systems leak some refrigerant and will not work properly. The amount can be small and still make the system work very poorly. The key points to watch are that the air filter is clean inside the house and the coils of the outdoor unit aren't covered in dirt and that you never see ice on the copper tubes near the bottom of the outdoor unit that lead to the inside. Any of those 3 items can easily double the cost of operation of an air conditioner and shorten the life of it. Knowledge is power.



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