

From: [Jim Briggs](#)
To: [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: mosquito control
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Mr. Jennings:

The Yakima Herald ran a front page story about the debate over spraying for mosquito control. I would like to suggest an alternative that might be acceptable to both the residents and the environment. I formerly lived in the Adirondack Mountains of New York and, for black fly control, many communities use the bacterium, *Bacillus thuringensis* (variety *israelensis*) also known as BTI. It is toxic to the larvae of black flies, mosquitoes and certain midges. It apparently has no other effect on the environment. I was an extension Agent, involved in training BTI applicators for black fly control.

I believe some of the communities in Westchester County have used BTI on salt marsh mosquitoes. To keep the bacteria on the surface where the larvae feed, they soak ground corn cobs with the bacteria.

You might contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or the mosquito person in Westchester County.

James Briggs
jbriggs@elltel.net
509-933-2231