

Facts on Abietiv™

- **What is Abietiv™** (Balsam Fir Sawfly Nucleopolyhedrovirus)

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 the active ingredient in Abietiv™. NeabNPV was 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?**

NeabNPV has to be field collected from infected sawfly larvae. NeabNPV is extracted in the laboratory from these diseased larvae. Abietiv™ is then produced in a form that can be 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.

- **How much forested area was treated as part of the 2006 balsam fir sawfly operational control program?**

The Department of Natural Resources - Forestry Services Branch successfully treated 15,200 hectares of infested forest in western Newfoundland as part of the 2006 balsam fir sawfly control program. This was the first operational scale control program with this product. This program was carried out by the Department with the necessary approvals from the provincial Department of Environment and Conservation.

- **How much forested area will be treated as part of the planned 2007 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 2007 balsam fir sawfly control program. This program will again 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 is introducing 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.

- **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 closely related sawfly defoliators.

- **Will Abietiv™ affect other non-target organisms?**

Tests carried out by, and on behalf of, the Canadian Forest Service as part of the data package for federal registration indicated **no impact** on various potentially sensitive indicator species such as moths, leafcutter bees, honey bees and Daphnia (water crustacean).

- **What effect does Abietiv™ have on humans?**

Because of the very specific nature of this product, there is no impact on humans. There is no negative impact on other non-target species.

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