Q: **What is GF-120 NF Naturalyte®?**

A: GF-120 NF Naturalyte® is an insecticide product that contains the active ingredient spinosad. Because spinosad is produced by a naturally occurring bacterium, Saccaropolyspora spinosa, it is considered a “non-synthetic” ingredient. The GF-120 NF Naturalyte® the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) uses contains only 0.02% spinosad, the balance is inert ingredients. GF-120 NF Naturalyte® is used to control a variety of insects on farms and in gardens and is used by the Department to control invasive pests in urban areas. The Department mixes GF-120 NF Naturalyte® with a protein bait to attract target insects. This mixture is sprayed onto the foliage of host plants as small gel-like bait stations. Each bait station is about 6 inches in diameter. The bait stations are sprayed onto host trees far above the ground and out of reach of children and pets. (View the video: Spinosad: Organic Pest Treatment for Exotic Fruit Flies at [http://bit.ly/spinosad](http://bit.ly/spinosad))

Q: **How does the active ingredient, spinosad, work?**

A: When insects ingest or come in contact with spinosad, the insect’s nerves become highly excited and over-stimulated. This can lead to death of the insect. Tests indicate that spinosad has little effect on mammalian nervous systems, even at very high doses.

Q: **How do federal agencies classify spinosad health effects and risk?**

A: Spinosad meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s requirements for “reduced risk pesticides” because it has been shown to have little impact on human health. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) allows spinosad for organic use because it is non-synthetic and has been determined to be compatible with organic practices.

Q: **What are the human health effects associated with spinosad?**

A: Spinosad poses very little health risk to humans when GF-120 NF Naturalyte® is applied as instructed on the label. High doses applied to skin show very low toxicity to mammals. Studies show no evidence of mutations, other DNA damage, or cancer. Spinosad can cause temporary slight eye and skin irritation when tested at high concentrations. It does not cause skin-sensitization reactions such as allergic contact dermatitis in test animals.

Q: **What is known about the inert ingredients in GF-120 NF Naturalyte®?**

A: There are several inert ingredients in GF-120 NF Naturalyte®. Like all products allowed for organic use, the inerts in GF-120 NF Naturalyte come from a USDA list of “inerts of minimal concern”. Some of the inert ingredients, when tested at high concentrations on laboratory animals, caused transient slight skin or eye irritation. None of the inert ingredients showed evidence of causing cancer. Exposure to any of the non-natural inert ingredients is expected to be very low. Some consumer products
such as food, cosmetics, and oral medications contain one or more of the inert ingredients found in GF-120 NF Naturalyte®.

**Q:** What happens to GF-120 NF Naturalyte after it is applied on plants?
**A:** Most of the active ingredient, spinosad, remains on the surface of the foliage. A small amount of spinosad may enter the leaves but it is not distributed to other parts of the plant. Applying the insecticide to foliage could also result in spinosad landing on the ground. Spinosad tends to stay in the top soil and is not persistent in the environment. Residues on foliage and on the ground are broken down by sunlight or bacteria within a few days to several weeks.

**Q:** What actions can people take to reduce their exposures in areas treated with GF-120 NF Naturalyte®?
**A:** Do not perform yard work or allow children to play near the treated trees or plants immediately after the treatment. Rinse off outdoor play areas after the treatment. Wash skin and clothing if contact occurs. Follow instructions provided by CDFA.

**Q:** Can I eat fruits and vegetables from plants and trees treated with GF-120 NF Naturalyte®?
**A:** Yes, produce can be harvested and consumed after GF-120 NF Naturalyte has dried. Both homegrown and store-bought fruits and vegetables should be washed before they are eaten or cooked.

**Q:** What should I do if I feel sick after the application of GF-120 NF Naturalyte®?
**A:** Call the California Poison Control System hotline at (800) 222-1222 or consult with your physician.

For further information, please contact:

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