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**OFFICE OF PLANT INDUSTRIES  
& PEST MANAGEMENT**


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Charles W. Puffinberger, Ph.D., *Assistant  
Secretary for Plant Industries & Pest Management*

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The Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management originated in 1972 as the Division of Plant Industries. It became the Division of Plant Industries and Pest Management in 1980, and the Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management in 1984. The Office was reorganized in 1987 as the Office of Plant Industries and Resource Conservation. In 1990, the Office was reformed under its current name.

The Assistant Secretary for Plant Industries and Pest Management supervises programs concerned with plants, plant pests, pest management, and pesticides. The Assistant Secretary also coordinates these programs with local, State and federal officials. In addition, the Assistant Secretary manages cooperative agreements with local, county, State and federal agencies.

Under the Office are seven sections: Forest Pest Management; Mosquito Control; Pesticide Regulation; Plant Protection; State Chemist; Turf and Seed; and Weed Control.

**FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT SECTION**

Robert H. Tichenor, Jr., *Chief*  
(410) 841-5922

Known as the Gypsy Moth Control Section until 1987, the Forest Pest Management Section protects forests by working to eradicate or control insect (particularly gypsy moth) infestations and disease.

The gypsy moth is the most destructive forest pest of the eastern United States. It harms trees in wooded residential areas, parks, and recreation areas. Consequently, the moth is the subject of a State and a national quarantine program. This pest has been present in Maryland since 1971. Despite an active suppression program, the gypsy moth continues threatening unprotected trees. The cooperative local, State and federal program to manage the moth is coordinated by the Annapolis office. Branch offices are located in Annapolis, Bel Air, Cheltenham, Cumberland, Denton, and Frederick.

**MOSQUITO CONTROL SECTION**

Cy Lesser, *Chief*  
(410) 841-5870

The Mosquito Control Section provides state-wide mosquito control services through a cooperatively funded program. Branch offices are located in College Park, Salisbury, and Leonardtown. Envi-

ronmentally compatible temporary methods of insecticide application (adulticiding and larvaciding) and permanent methods (water management) are used to control mosquitoes. In addition to implementing control measures, the Section monitors the environmental impact of the program, develops effective control methods, and conducts epidemiological investigations of mosquito-borne diseases (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-401 through 5-405).

**PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION**

Mary Ellen Setting, *Chief*  
(410) 841-5710

Administration of the Pesticide Applicators Law began in 1973 under the Division of Entomology. By 1975, the work continued under the Pest Management Section. A separate Pesticide Applicators Law Section was formed in 1980 and became the Pesticide Regulation Section in 1987.

The Section regulates the use of pesticides in Maryland. It licenses businesses engaged in commercial application of pesticides; trains and certifies commercial and private pesticide applicators; and enforces the Pesticide Applicators Law and Regulations. The Section also provides technical advice on the use of pesticides.

The Chief is the State's authority on matters relating to pesticide use and application (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-201 through 5-211).

**PLANT PROTECTION SECTION**

William F. Gimpel, Jr., Ph.D., *Chief*  
(410) 841-5920

The Plant Protection Section administers programs relating to nursery inspection, plant protection and quarantine, integrated pest management, and nuisance bird control. The Section also oversees programs for certified plant production, inspection and registration of honey bee colonies, and implementation of the Interstate Pest Control Compact.

The Section serves as the State's authority on plant pests and agricultural quarantines, and provides liaison for the Department with other State and federal regulatory agencies (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-301 through 5-313, 5-501 through 5-507, 5-701 through 5-716, 5-801 through 5-805).

**STATE CHEMIST SECTION**

Warren R. Bontoyan, *State Chemist*  
(410) 841-2721

The office of State Agricultural Chemist was created in 1847 to help farmers rejuvenate worn-out tobacco land (Chapter 249, Acts of 1847). The Chemist analyzed soil throughout the State as well as marl and other mineral or vegetable deposits