Malathion is used to control insects in agricultural food and nonfood crops, residential vegetable gardens, landscapes, turf, and mosquito abatement. Examples of insects malathion is used to control include beetles, bugs, centipedes, crickets, earwigs, firebrats, fleas, flies, gnats, grasshoppers, hoppers, millipedes, mites, mosquitoes, moths, pill bugs, psyllids, scale, scorpions, silverfish, sow bugs, spiders, thrips, ticks, wasps, and whitefly. It can be found in many forms including emulsifiable concentrates, wettable powders, dustable powders, and ultra-low-volume (ULV) liquid formulations.

Potential hazards of malathion:
✧ Moderately to very highly toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms.
✧ Slightly to moderately toxic to birds.
✧ Highly toxic to bees and other beneficial insects.
✧ Low toxicity to mammals including people and pets.

Water quality issues:
Malathion can move through soil, but because it breaks down very quickly it is not considered a threat for contaminating groundwater. However, malathion can move via surface runoff into lakes, streams, and other bodies of water, poisoning aquatic invertebrates.

Tips for keeping malathion out of water:
✧ Avoid perimeter sprays on hard surfaces surrounding buildings, especially where water from irrigation or rain can wash the insecticide away.
✧ Do not apply near a body of water or near places where water drains into the street, gutters, and storm drains.
✧ Avoid runoff by not overwatering.
✧ Apply only when needed.
✧ Avoid application before the rain season.

Options to consider when pesticides are recommended:
✧ Always select the least toxic product that can solve the problem and consider nonchemical alternatives. Always use pesticides in an integrated pest management program that includes a combination of methods.
✧ See the UC IPM Web site, www.ipm.ucdavis.edu, for nonchemical or safer chemical control alternatives.

More about malathion:
✧ Malathion is a nonsystemic, broad-spectrum insecticide. Malathion is used to control a variety of insects outdoors.

For more pesticide and pest management information, visit the University of California IPM Web site at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu or the California Department of Pesticide Regulation Web site at www.cdpr.ca.gov.

The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.