

PRESS RELEASE

GA Dept. of Agriculture Determines Astro Exterminating is 100% in Compliance for Mosquito Spraying in Tifton

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 1, 2025

TIFTON, Ga. – The Georgia Department of Agriculture conducted a review of Astro Exterminating and their mosquito spraying applications in Tifton on 4/3/25, 4/10/25, and 4/17/25. The Georgia Department of Agriculture found that Astro Exterminating was in **100% compliance with the Georgia Department of Agriculture's regulations** on mosquito spraying.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture performed the audit and review at the request of several area residents who had expressed their opposition to the mosquito spraying. The equipment, pesticide used, the amount, and application rate were all reviewed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Perm-X UL4-4 (4% Permethrin based active ingredient) is used by Astro Exterminating for mosquito control. Permethrin has been registered by the EPA since 1979. Permethrin is the most widely used mosquito adulticide in the U.S. and is used to treat 9 to 10 million acres annually (out of 32-39 million acres treated with a mosquito adulticide).¹

Permethrin is an insecticide in the pyrethroid family. The EPA has conducted human health risk assessments for all labeled uses of pyrethroids. Based on the results of these assessments and any required label changes, pyrethroids can be used for public health mosquito control programs without posing unreasonable risks to human health when applied according to the label.¹

When applied according to label directions, pyrethroids used in mosquito control programs do not pose unreasonable risks to wildlife or the environment.¹

In November 2011, the EPA completed a cumulative risk assessment for the pyrethroids/pyrethrins and identified no cumulative risks of concern.¹

For the protection of our citizens, the City of Tifton contracted Astro Exterminating services of Tifton to spray every street in Tifton monthly through November 2025, as mosquitoes are known as the deadliest animal in the world.²

Astro Exterminating sprays from 7pm-10pm on the following schedule per week of each month: Week 1- District 1, Week 2- District 2, Week 3- District 3, and Week 4- District 4. It is not a requirement of Astro Exterminating or the City of Tifton to notify the public during each application.

Mosquitoes can spread diseases like Malaria, Dengue, West Nile, yellow fever, Zika, chikungunya, and lymphatic filariasis.² Last year in the U.S., the CDC reported 1,466 cases of West Nile virus, with 53 of those cases in Georgia alone.³

Interim City Manager Larry Lawrence states, "The City of Tifton prioritizes all of our citizens' health and safety. The Tifton City Council makes decisions that reflect the betterment of the health, welfare and safety of the City's residents. Tifton's vision is to continuously grow a safe and thriving community by providing progressive city services delivered with integrity, friendliness, and safety."

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1: EPA, 2025, March 6 – Permethrin, Resmethrin, d-Phenothrin (Sumithrin): Synthetic Pyrethroids For Mosquito Control <https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/permethrin-resmethrin-d-phenothrin-sumithrin-synthetic-pyrethroids-mosquito#:~:text=Permethrin%20is%20the%20most%20widely,pest%20resistance%2C%20and%20broad%20labeling>.

2: CDC, 2024, August 14 – Fighting the World's Deadliest Animal <https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/impact/fighting-the-worlds-deadliest-animal.html>

3: CDC, 2025, January 14 – Current Year Data <https://www.cdc.gov/west-nile-virus/data-maps/current-year-data.html>

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Room 410, Atlanta, GA 30334

Phone: (404) 656-4958 * Fax: (404) 657-8378

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Site: <u>Astro Exterminating Services, Inc</u>	Date: <u>04/23/2025</u>
Address: <u>403 12th STE 4027 Ga HWY 125 N</u>	City: <u>Tifton</u>
State: <u>GA</u> Zip: <u>31794</u>	County: <u>TIFT</u> Phone: <u>229-244-6862</u>
Inspection Type: ☐ Ag Use ☐ Ag Use For Cause ☒ Non-Ag Use ☐ Non-Ag Use For Cause ☒ Record Check	
Facility Function: ☒ Pesticide Contractor ☐ Farm Operation ☐ Greenhouse/Nursery ☐ Golf Course ☐ Other	
Description of Operation: <u>Mosquito Control Contractor - Municipality</u>	
Type of Applicator: ☒ Commercial ☐ Private ☐ Non-Certified	
Contractor License #: <u>100299</u>	Applicator Name & License #: <u>[REDACTED] 05633</u>

PESTICIDE APPLICATION RECORDS

Is firm or individual required to maintain application records pursuant to rules of the Georgia Pesticide Use Application Act of 1976? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, check [✓] items below that are not maintained.

Date and time of application.	Pesticide used and application rate.
Name of person for whom applied.	Type of equipment used.
Location of pesticide application.	Name of applicator.
Crop or target for which applied.	Notification of any unexpected occurrences at or during time of application.
Acreage, size of area treated or total amount of pesticide applied.	Names, concentrations and quantities of all pesticides disposed of and manner of disposal.
Target pest for which applied.	

PESTICIDE STORAGE AREA

Are all pesticides on hand registered for use in Georgia?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A
Are all pesticides on hand federally registered?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A
Do all pesticides appear to be stored in a secure manner?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A
Is area free of rusty, leaking, or unlabeled containers?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A
Number of pesticides reviewed for possible violations: <u>3</u> . Apparent violations found? Yes	☒ No	N/A	

WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS

Is the firm or the individual required to comply with WPS regulations?.....	Yes	☒ No	N/A
If yes, was a WPS inspection report completed?.....	Yes	No	☒ N/A

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Do any pesticides on hand require protective equipment?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A
Is all required safety equipment being provided?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A
Does safety equipment appear to be in faulty, unsafe, or unused condition?.....	Yes	☒ No	N/A

MIXING, LOADING, AND APPLICATION EQUIPMENT

Does equipment appear to be in satisfactory condition?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A
Does firm maintain and use appropriate measuring device?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A

DISPOSAL

Are empty pesticide containers being disposed of according to label directions?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A
Does firm appear to properly dispose of rinsate and excess spray materials?.....	☒ Yes	No	N/A
Does mixing/loading area appear to show signs of disposal contamination?.....	Yes	☒ No	N/A

APPLICATION POSTING (CHAPTER 40-21-9)

Are posting requirements applicable?.....	Yes	☒ No	N/A
If yes, does firm appear to meet requirements of the posting rule?.....	Yes	No	☒ N/A

I have read and discussed this report with the inspector below:

Signature of Person Interviewed: [Signature]

Inspector: [Signature]

David Tucker

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PESTICIDE USE REVIEW REPORT

SECTION I

Inspection Site: Astro Exterminating Services, Inc Date: 04/23/2025
Address: ~~103 12th St E~~ 4027 Ga Hwy 125 N City: Tifton
State: GA ^{AOT} Zip: 31794 County: TIFT Phone: 229-244-6862
Review Type: ☐ Ag Use ☐ Ag Use Follow-up ☒ Non-Ag Use ☐ Non-Ag Use Follow-up

SECTION II PESTICIDE USE 1

Brand Name: Perm-X UL 4-4 EPA Registration #: 84459-47
Classification: ☐ RUP ☒ GUP Formulation: ☐ Powder/Dust ☒ Liquid ☐ Granular ☐ Bait ☐ Aerosol ☐ Other
Date of Application: 04/17/2025 Target Pest: Municipality - Roads/ROWS
Crop or Target to Which Applied: Mosquito Size of Area Treated: 35 miles
Total Amount of Pesticide Applied: 5-gal Application Rate: 12-OZ per Minute
Method of Application: ☒ Powered Ground ☐ Hand ☐ Aircraft ☐ Other
Person Applied for: Name & Address: City of Tifton
Applicator: [REDACTED] License #, if licensed: NA
Apparent Label Violations Found: ☐ Yes ☒ No Use Information Obtained: ☐ Verbally ☒ Records
Samples Taken: ☐ Yes ☒ No Sample Type: ☐ Physical ☐ Documentary

PESTICIDE USE 2

Brand Name: Perm X UL 4-4 EPA Registration #: 89459-47
Classification: ☐ RUP ☒ GUP Formulation: ☐ Powder/Dust ☒ Liquid ☐ Granular ☐ Bait ☐ Aerosol ☐ Other
Date of Application: 04/10/2025 Target Pest: Municipality - Roads/ROWS
Crop or Target to Which Applied: Mosquito Size of Area Treated: 28-miles
Total Amount of Pesticide Applied: 7-gal Application Rate: 10- oz Per minute
Method of Application: ☒ Powered Ground ☐ Hand ☐ Aircraft ☐ Other
Person Applied for: Name & Address: City of Tifton
Applicator: [REDACTED] License #, if licensed: N/A
Apparent Label Violations Found: ☐ Yes ☒ No Use Information Obtained: ☐ Verbally ☒ Records
Samples Taken: ☐ Yes ☒ No Sample Type: ☐ Physical ☐ Documentary

PESTICIDE USE 3

Brand Name: Perm X UL 4-4 EPA Registration #: 89459-47
Classification: ☐ RUP ☒ GUP Formulation: ☐ Powder/Dust ☒ Liquid ☐ Granular ☐ Bait ☐ Aerosol ☐ Other
Date of Application: 04/03/2025 Target Pest: Municipality- Road/ROWS
Crop or Target to Which Applied: Mosquito Size of Area Treated: 25-miles
Total Amount of Pesticide Applied: 5-gal Application Rate: 10-oz per minute
Method of Application: ☒ Powered Ground ☐ Hand ☐ Aircraft ☐ Other
Person Applied for: Name & Address: City of Tifton
Applicator: [REDACTED] License #, if licensed: N/A
Apparent Label Violations Found: ☐ Yes ☒ No Use Information Obtained: ☐ Verbally ☒ Records
Samples Taken: ☐ Yes ☒ No Sample Type: ☐ Physical ☐ Documentary

The above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Person Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Inspector: AOT

David Tucker

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NOTICE OF INSPECTION

Date of Inspection 04/23/2025	Time 11:30	AM ☒ PM ☐
Name of Individual(s) 	Title (Mgr., Owner, etc.) Supervisor	
Name of Company/Business, if applicable Astro Exterminating Services, Inc	Address (Street, Box, City, State, Zip, County) 4027 Ga Hwy 125 N 403 12th St E , Tifton, GA 31794; TIFT ADT	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: ☒ Routine ☐ For Cause (See Remarks Section for Apparent Violations)

- ☒ For the purpose of inspecting sites where pesticides have been used, are currently being used, or reported to have been used in order to obtain documentation, including samples/records on their use and to determine whether they are used consistent with their label/labeling. Georgia Pesticide Use and Application Act, O.C.G.A. 2-7-107.
- ☐ For the purpose of inspecting and obtaining samples of any pesticides and devices packaged, labeled, and released for shipment, and samples of any containers or labeling for such pesticides or devices, in places where pesticides or devices are held for distribution or sale. Georgia Pesticide Control Act, O.C.G.A. 2-7-69; FIFRA Sec. 9(a) and 12(a)(2)(B).
- ☐ For the purpose of inspecting and obtaining copies of those records specified in Georgia Pesticide Control Act, O.C.G.A. 2-7-61; (2) and FIFRA Sec. 8 and 40 CFR Part 169 (Sec. 8 & 12(a)(2)(B)).
- ☐ For the purpose of inspecting irrigation system(s) to determine if such system(s) that are designed or used for application of fertilizer, pesticides, or chemicals have required anti-syphoning devices properly installed. Georgia Anti-Syphon Device Act, O.C.G.A. 2-1-4.
- ☐ Person interviewed denies access and/or refuses inspection. Georgia Pesticide Control Act O.C.G.A. 2-7-69; 2-7-73. Georgia Pesticide Use and Application Act, O.C.G.A. 2-7-107; 2-7-114.

REMARKS:

Pesticide Contractor Inspection

☐ Person interviewed refuses to sign

Signature of Person Interviewed



Date

04/23/2025

Signature of Person Interviewed

Date