

Assistant Secretary also coordinates Office activities with other Department programs and 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*
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 Bel Air, Cheltenham, Cumberland, Denton, and Mt. Airy.

MOSQUITO CONTROL SECTION

Stanley R. Joseph, Ph.D., *Chief*
841-5870

The Mosquito Control Section conducts a statewide cooperatively funded program to provide mosquito control services. Branch offices are located in College Park, Salisbury, and Leonardtown. Environmentally 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*
841-5710

Formerly the Pesticide Applicators Law Section, the Pesticide Regulation Section received its new name in 1987. It regulates the use of pesticides in Maryland. The Section 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*
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 forest pest management, 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 officials (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*
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 which might be applied as fertilizers, and lectured and publicized his findings. During the guano boom of the 1840's and 1850's, a Guano Inspector also analyzed all guano imported through Baltimore to ensure that farmers got that for which they paid. Modern equivalents of such duties are carried out by the State Chemist Section.

Formerly under the Office of Animal Health and Consumer Services, the State Chemist Section was transferred to the Office of Plant Industries and Resource Conservation in 1987. The State Chemist Section samples and chemically tests and analyzes commercial fertilizers, feeds, pesticides, soil conditioners, and liming materials sold in the State. The Section registers and examines the labels of these products as well. The purpose is to determine if the products conform to standards established under Maryland laws governing quality, contents, and labeling. Measures are taken to protect the consumer and the dealer from unscrupulous or careless manufacturers.