

Monterey.

3-28-85 EXP

✓ *State Sprays Felton with Bt*

The California Department of Food and Agriculture began aerial spraying of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) on 250 acres of Felton Saturday in an attempt to eradicate the gypsy moth. Saturday's spraying was the first of what may be six weekly aerial applications of Bt in the Felton area.

The state was forced to use the apparently harmless Bt rather than the controversial pesticide carbaryl sevin because people living in Felton and numerous local governments protested and brought a successful lawsuit.

Earlier this month, visiting Monterey County Superior Court Judge Ralph Drummond ruled the state had failed to show either that carbaryl is safe or that Bt is not a viable alternative for eliminating the voracious moths. (Although carbaryl is available over the counter at nurseries, test results are inconclusive on whether it causes birth defects, cancer and other ailments.)

The state's appeal of the Drummond decision ran into serious trouble last Friday when the Sixth District State Court of Appeals in San Jose refused to consider the carbaryl issue as an emergency that must be decided immediately.

In addition to the spraying, Felton residents may also face a quarantine designed to insure that the gypsy moth is not transported out of the area.