

## **Pesticide Enforcement in the Urban Environment**

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Los Angeles County is approximately 4,000 square miles and has a population of over 10 million people. Agriculture is still prevalent in the outlying areas of Los Angeles County. In the L.A. basin, wholesale nurseries grow plants under power lines and Edison right of ways. Nursery stock is one of Los Angeles County's top grossing commodities. However, urbanization has dramatically increased over the last several years, and the use of pesticides has been under understandable scrutiny.

No matter where pesticides are used, it is vital that the application be done safely, with consideration for the applicator, the neighbors, and the environment. The perception of pesticide usage is generally not a favorable one with the public. A well planned pest control program makes use of the cultural, physical, chemical methods. Using the pesticide permitting program, inspectors can verify that a safe material handling program is in place. By performing pesticide use inspections we can ensure that potentially dangerous materials are being used in a safe and effective manner.