

Disrupting the Balance: Ecological Impacts of Pesticides in California



Thirty-seven years after Rachel Carson's eloquent warning to the world about the devastating effect pesticides have on birds and beneficial insects, pesticides continue to be a pervasive and insidious threat to California's ecosystems. A massive chemical assault on our environment is launched each year by California's residents, farmers, and official agencies, as we apply hundreds of millions of pounds of pesticide active ingredients in our homes and gardens, on crops and roadsides and in forests. This poisonous barrage aggravates other pressures on ecosystems, such as expanding suburban development and dammed rivers, threatening the survival of many birds, fish, insects, and small aquatic organisms that form the basis of the food web.

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