



Bacillus Thuringiensis

By ILO, UNEP, World Health Organization

World Health Organization, Switzerland, 2000. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 206 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This book evaluates the risks to human health and the environment posed by the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) as a microbial agent for pest control. Products containing various Bt subspecies are increasingly used worldwide to control the larvae of several insect pests that threaten major agricultural crops and forests. Bt products are also being used to control the insect vectors of malaria, onchocerciasis and other diseases of major public health importance. The bacterium is also a key source of genes for transgenic expression to provide pest resistance in plants and microorganisms. The report opens with an overview of the biological properties of Bt and commercial Bt products. Particular attention is given to the mechanisms by which sporulation produces inclusion bodies containing insecticidal crystalline proteins which are selectively toxic for insect species in the orders Coleoptera Diptera and Lepidoptera. Tables show the current classification of 67 Bt subspecies and the large number of genes coding for the insecticidal crystalline proteins. A review of Bt metabolites found in commercial products concludes that they pose no hazards to humans...

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