

## New Spray-On Product Keeps Pest Birds Away

"We pioneered this bird repellent product with a company in the landfill industry and had no idea how big a problem birds were in agriculture," says Steve Stone, president of the company that produces Avian Control™. "During the government approval process we learned that bird damage to crops results in millions of lost revenue, so now we're focusing on marketing to agriculture and the fruit industry."

The primary ingredient in Avian Control is methyl anthranilate (MA), which has been used as an effective bird deterrent since the 1960's. MA is a naturally occurring extract found in Concord grapes. Stone's company used that as the base ingredient and refined its formula with other select and proprietary food grade components. Avian Control is a non-lethal product that repels nuisance birds such as starlings, pigeons, geese and waxwings.

Avian Control can be fogged or sprayed onto field crops such as sunflowers and sweet corn and on fruit crops such as cherries, grapes and blueberries. Golf courses, lawns and parks can be sprayed with Avian Control to deter nuisance geese, ducks and birds. The product can also be fogged in large buildings like airplane hangars and machine sheds to repel birds. Avian Control has EPA approval in 49 states and is awaiting approval in California as of early 2013.

Stone says that tests done in the fruit industry showed that trees and plants sprayed with Avian Control had 87 percent less damage than those left untreated. Sunflower growers in North Dakota used Avian Control in 2012 with excellent success. Rugby, N. Dak., farmer Mike Christenson sprayed half of an 80-acre field with Avian Control and says that by the day after the application, he watched flocks of birds swoop toward the

field and veer away from the sprayed area. Coleharbor, N. Dak., farmer Tim Eslinger treated 50 acres of sunflowers and says birds moved on without damaging his crop.

Stone says that Avian Control deters birds because the product creates an ultra-violet staining effect on plants that only birds can see. "Once they've had a bad experience where it's sprayed, they won't be back," Stone says. He's also quick to point out that Avian Control doesn't physically harm the birds, doesn't affect the product it's applied to, and doesn't harm other animals, humans, pets or insects.

"For bird control it's important to treat an area early, when scout birds are checking for food and resting sites," Stone says. "If scouts have a bad experience, the rest of the flock won't land there either."

Although Avian Control physically lasts only two weeks after application, birds are

deterred because they're creatures of habit. "Once birds take a dislike to a certain area or are deterred for a couple weeks, they generally won't be back," Stone says. "If there are new birds coming into an area or a crop needs protection for several weeks, then additional treatments may be necessary."

For agricultural use, 2 qts. of Avian Control are mixed with 5 gal. of water to create a spray mix that covers 50 acres. Stone says a typical application costs from \$15 to \$24 an acre depending on ground or aerial application. Avian Control is available in 1 gal. jugs, in 5-gal. boxes with two 2.5 gal. jugs, and in 15, 30 or 55 gal. drums.

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## Pop-Up Shelter For Temporary Use

You can set up a temporary hunting camp, a remote office site or temporary worker housing fast with EZ Shelters. The units can be collapsed just as quickly.

Originally designed for use by the military and disaster responders, the pop-up units have a wide variety of other uses, suggests Don Harvey, EZ Shelters.

The EZ Shelters are fully insulated, 4-walled, 8-ft. tall structures that collapse to a 2 1/2-ft. height. The 8-ft. wide units are available in 16-ft., 9-in. and 20-ft. lengths.

Equipped with two windows and a lockable door, they are also wired with electrical outlets, lights, telephone and computer jacks and even a smoke detector. Removable panels on the rear wall allow easy mounting of optional heating and air conditioning units.

The 2,600 and 2,900-lb. weights require a forklift or similar device to move and stack them. However, once in place the 26-gauge steel-sided walls are easily erected by two or, in the case of the larger shelter, three people in only five minutes.

"The units are priced at \$18,000 and \$21,000, respectively," says Harvey. "If multiple shelters are needed, up to 11 of the

smaller ones or 6 of the larger ones can be stacked three high on a 52-ft. lowboy."

To see an EZ Shelter going up, visit [www.FARMSHOW.com](http://www.FARMSHOW.com).

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Originally designed for use by the military, pop-up shelters are fully insulated, 4-walled structures that collapse to a 2 1/2-ft. height.



Once the shelters are in place, the 26-ga. steel-sided walls can be easily erected by 2 or 3 people in just a few minutes.

## Concrete Logs Look Like The Real Thing

"People have to touch it. They don't believe the logs are concrete until they do," says Susan O'Harah, who works with her husband, Joe, and son, Jake, in their family business, O'Harah Concrete, Inc.

Joe discovered Walt Smith, inventor of the patented design for Old Kentucky Logs on the Internet and decided to become a distributor in the Pennsylvania/East Coast area. The O'Harahs also make concrete statues.

"We have always liked the old hand-hewn logs, but they take so much maintenance," Susan O'Harah says. Concrete eliminates problems associated with wood such as warping, settling, twisting, rotting and holes dug by bugs and birds.

With several realistic wood grain molds, Old Kentucky concrete logs are 2 by 10 in. and 8 ft. long with rebar inside to prevent the logs from cracking. Logs weigh just 80 lbs. so two people can handle them. There are also special molds to make dovetail corners and sills, trim and other siding accents.

"It goes on like veneer stone with metal tabs and screws," O'Harah says. Walls are prepared with at least 1/2-in. thick plywood or OSB, covered with felt paper or plastic moisture barrier and topped with wire mesh. Spread mortar on the back of the log, level it on the wall and screw it in place. Stack the siding pieces up the wall, leaving a gap

(usually between 1 1/2 and 2 in.), and cut gable pieces to fit using a saw with a concrete blade.

Once all the logs are in place, the siding is ready for staining.

"We use a concrete acid stain sprayed with a cheap garden sprayer," O'Harah says. Once it's dry, use a bag or applicator to smooth grout between the logs. Paint or spray a good sealer over everything.

The O'Harahs have their own molds under a royalty agreement with Old Kentucky Logs to make the logs in Pennsylvania, which saves customers shipping costs. With a small model cabin at their business, they've had a good response since they started in June 2012.

For example, one customer is beefing up his log restaurant after a car ran into it. He purchased concrete logs for both the interior and exterior. A homeowner with a two-story brick farmhouse plans to side his house with the concrete logs – which can be mortared directly to the brick.

"We mainly just make and sell the product," O'Harah says. "But we go and show customers how to get started. We want to make sure they're doing it right."

Installation goes fairly quickly, she says, especially when compared to veneer stone siding.



Concrete logs look like real hand-hewn logs but don't have the problems associated with wood such as warping, settling, twisting, and rotting.

The cost for the concrete logs is \$7.50 per sq. ft. That's similar to the cost of lower priced veneer stone and much less than using real logs – especially factoring in the cost of maintenance.

The O'Harahs have been busy making logs and storing them for the upcoming season. They've heard from potential customers as far away as Maine and New York.

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Concrete logs are 2 by 10 in. and 8 ft. long, with rebar inside to prevent the logs from cracking.