has three primary advantages. "The first," he said, "is timeliness. The oil formulation can be applied one quart undiluted per acre. That contains one pound of the active ingredient. Compared to diluted or water formulations, we could thus treat four times more acreage per load. This enabled us to treat 10,000 acres in two weeks using only two helicopters. Since we had to contract for extra helicopters and pilots, we were able to reduce our costs and pass along the savings to the towns."

"Secondly," Canning continued, "the material saves handling. We got bulk delivery of the product in tank trucks direct from the point of manufacture. The tank truck went right into our warehouse and pumped into our nurse tanks."

The third advantage cited by Canning was good control. "From the customer's standpoint," he said, "this is the most important benefit of all. Sevin-4 Oil remains on leaf surfaces despite heavy rains in the spring. It provides consistent performance — and that's what gets you repeat business year after year."

Keeping the spray material on the trees is also important from an ecological standpoint, according to Emile Ollivier. "Even with all the rain we had during the spraying period, we had no complaints where we sprayed. There were no fish kills and no apparent effect on wildlife," he said.

About the only complaint Ollivier did hear during the successful spray program was a far cry from complaints he had heard earlier from environmentalists. Some residents were unhappy that their property could not be sprayed. Because state regulations prohibited spraying the heavily wooded, sparsely populated areas, many individual property owners within these areas were missed in the spray program. Ollivier received, in fact, over 400 requests for spraying from residents within the out-of-bounds areas.

"That's one of every eight people in Orleans," he noted. "Last year during the big anti-spraying debate, people signed petitions against spraying. This year, after the big infestation, the same people were begging us to spray."