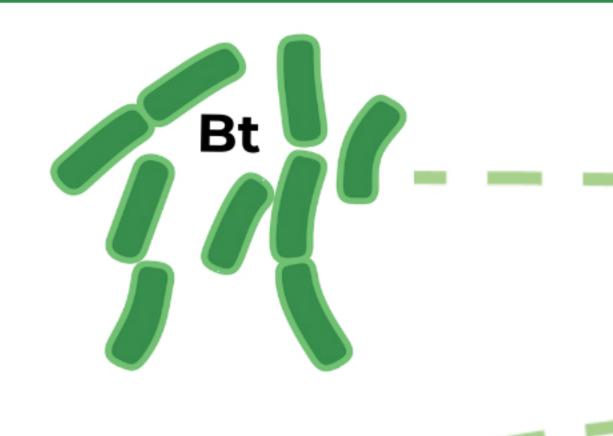
Bacillus Thuringiensis (Bt) Strains

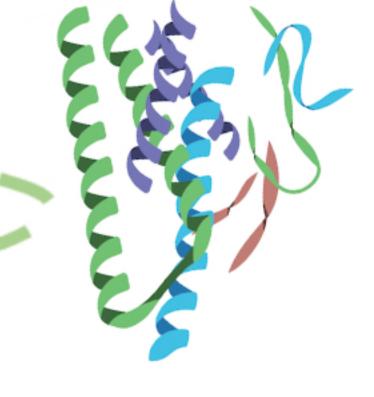
Bt is a bacterium that lives in the soil.

Bt can be applied as a spray, dust, granules, or pellets for insect control. It can also be genetically engineered into plants to protect them from insects. Some Bt products are approved for use in organic agriculture.



Bt makes a protein, called cryprotein

These proteins need to be activated to be toxic



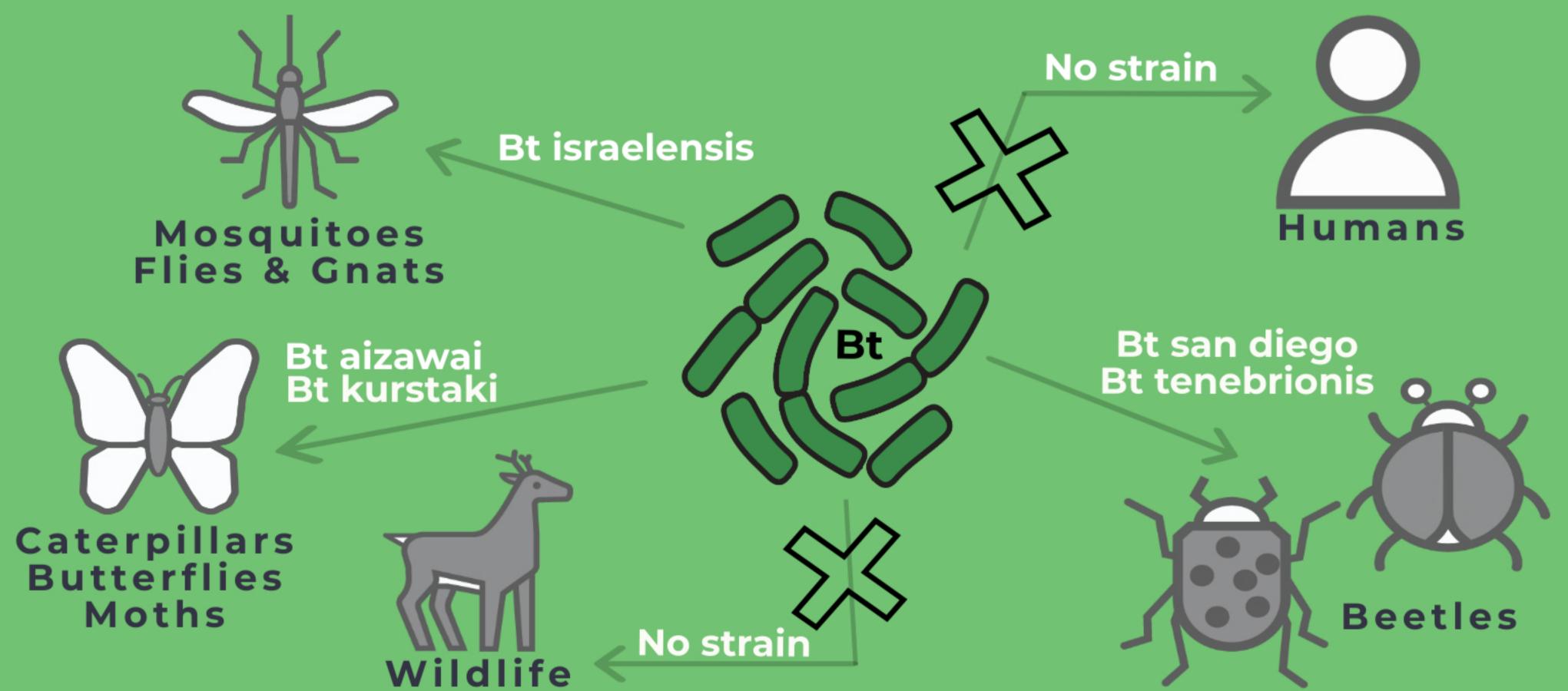
Insect-specific gut conditions activate these proteins

When eaten, some proteins are toxic to certain immature insects (larvae), but not others

There are different types of Bt, and these different strains produce different proteins.

The need for specific gut conditions and enzymes allows Bt Proteins to target one kind of insect over another.

Bt does not activate in the acidic stomach of humans and wildlife.



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If you have questions about this or other pesticide topics, contact NPIC.

