



For Immediate Release:
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State Plans Open House on Gypsy Moth Treatment

DELAWARE – The Ohio Department of Agriculture each year conducts an extensive trapping program across Ohio to detect growing populations of the invasive species *Lymantria dispar*, better known as the Gypsy Moth.

This insect does its damage by defoliating the tree during its caterpillar life stage. A couple of years of defoliation and other environmental stresses can cause the trees to die. With over 300 species of trees and shrubs that can be affected, it is considered one of the most destructive insect pests threatening our forest and ornamental plants in Ohio. If left unchecked, Gypsy Moth infestations can grow quite rapidly.

ODA has recently completed an analysis of Gypsy Moth populations throughout Ohio. Based on rising moth captures and/or egg mass counts within your area, we have concluded that a treatment is needed. So the ODA, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) I Forest Service I Forest Health Protection I Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Program, will be conducting a Gypsy Moth Treatment Project during the months of June in your area. Aerial treatment(s) of forested areas infested with the Gypsy Moth pest may begin in mid-June, with a mating disruption treatment. The purpose of this letter is to inform your department that this program will take place, and supply you with informational material so that your staff is well informed to answer any questions from the public.

An Open House has been scheduled for February 18 from 6-8 pm, at the OSU Extension Office, 149 North Sandusky Street. The public comment period ends February 29, 2016. For more information, phone 614-728-6400 or e-mail adkins@agri.ohio.gov.

View the Treatment Map

Treatments will be made with the following:

- A single application of mating disruption product, either Disrupt II, Splat, or Bio-Flakes. All products contain a synthetic Gypsy Moth pheromone. This application will occur in early to mid-June at the beginning of the mating season. When applied to the tree canopy, the pheromone disrupts the communication between the male and female moths, preventing them from finding each other and mating. This treatment does not kill the Gypsy Moth, but reduces the population in the area. All treatments will be applied from an aircraft flown approximately 50 to 100 feet above the tree tops. Residents may want to remain indoors during the treatments until the insecticide dries on the leaves (about 30 minutes), but there is no requirement to do so.

The exact time and date of treatment applications in your area cannot be determined in advance. The timing of treatments is dependent on insect development and environmental conditions.

Information about the Gypsy Moth and the ODA Gypsy Moth Management Program are available at www.agri.ohio.gov when you click on "Gypsy Moth Program"

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