



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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To: Wisconsin Municipal Clerks  
From: Andrea Diss-Torrance, DNR forest health specialist  
Re: Gypsy Moth Problems in Wisconsin  
Date: June 15, 2010

The purpose of this letter is to share important information about handling calls you may receive from the public during the next few weeks about problems they are having with gypsy moth.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources coordinates a gypsy moth aerial spray program to prevent outbreaks of this pest from stripping trees of their leaves. Aerial spraying takes place at eligible locations requested by counties in May through early June. Partial cost sharing from the federal government will be applied for by the state and passed onto counties if available. This cost sharing is in the form of partial reimbursement. The decision to participate in the aerial spray program is made locally.

If your county has a county coordinator for gypsy moth suppression, check with that individual as to whether they will take calls from the public or will only work with local governments once they know if and where the community wants treatment. If the county coordinator only works with local governments or if your county doesn't have a county coordinator, you (and municipal staff) will play a critical role informing local residents/property owners as well as local elected officials and board representatives about the availability of, and community need, for gypsy moth services.

June and July are the months when residents/property owners report problems from high numbers of gypsy moth caterpillars. If gypsy moths are damaging trees in your community, agitated residents may call you with pleas or demands that "Something *must* be done." They may expect immediate relief. Here's what you should do.

- **Let callers know that the state spray program was completed in May.** If they need immediate relief, they should contact an arborist. Information on a range of management options for the pest is at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>. A searchable list of arborists is available under Insecticidal Controls, professional ground based sprays at the bottom of the page. They can also call the gypsy moth information line at 1.800.642- 6684 (1.800.642-MOTH) and select Option 2 to be connected to a staff person who can help them. The call center is staffed 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7 days a week.
- **Compile a list of the name and address of each caller and a description of the level of problem they are having with gypsy moths.** Ask if the problems are throughout their neighborhood or are on just a few trees. This information will be needed to determine if the problem is widespread enough to warrant a community response and identify the areas that need to be sprayed.

Callers need to understand that just getting on a list does not ensure their property will be treated; this is a common source of confusion for callers. Your community's elected representatives need to decide whether to participate in the aerial spraying program and what areas will be proposed for treatment. Callers can view maps of areas proposed by communities and counties for treatment by the state suppression spray program in February of 2011 by visiting the <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>.

- **In August, assemble a list of all the callers, their addresses and the severity of the problem and provide it to your board or municipal official who can make the decision on whether the community will participate in the state suppression aerial spray program.** Let them know that this decision has to be made in September so that the areas to be treated can be determined and surveyed to verify eligibility for the spray program prior to the application deadline. The county must have all information and the application completed for the deadline of the first Friday in December. Local officials

should understand that the spray must be paid for, the cost of a spray can be from \$32-\$45 per acre, and the program requires a minimum of 20 acres in a compact shape. If they have questions about the spray program and other eligibility criteria, they should contact the county coordinator. (A list of county coordinators is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/gm/contact.asp>, or they can go to the website <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov> and link to the DNR's Suppression Program webpage and select Contacts.)

- **If the county does not have a county coordinator, your community officials must request that the county designate one in order to have access to the state suppression spray program.** This should be done as early as possible.

If your community decides to direct all local gypsy moth complaints to one person in your municipality, the DNR can list this person on the Suppression Program Contacts list. If you wish to add your community contact to the list, please send the name of your community, the name of the contact person, their phone number, email address and business address to [colleen.robinsonklug@wisconsin.gov](mailto:colleen.robinsonklug@wisconsin.gov).

If you need further assistance with gypsy moth problems, you may want to contact the regional DNR gypsy moth suppression coordinator for your county:

- Mark Guthmiller serves communities in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk, and Sheboygan Counties. His telephone number is 608.275-3223; his e-mail address is [mark.guthmiller@wisconsin.gov](mailto:mark.guthmiller@wisconsin.gov).
- Bill McNee serves communities in Adams, Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Forest, Florence, Green Lake, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oconto, Oneida, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Shawano, Vilas, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties. His telephone number is 920.662-5430; his e-mail address is [bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov](mailto:bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov).
- Brian Schwingle serves communities in Florence, Forest, Langlade, Oneida and Marathon Counties. His phone number is 715.365-8908. His e-mail address is [brian.schwingle@wisconsin.gov](mailto:brian.schwingle@wisconsin.gov)