Ohio | Department of Agriculture
Governor John R. Kasich • Lt. Governor Mary Taylor
Director David T. Daniels

Division of Plant Health - Gypsy Moth Program
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January 23, 2014

Dear Resident:

The Ohio Department of Agriculture each year conducts an extensive trapping program throughout Ohio to detect growing populations of the invasive species *Lymantria dispar*, better known as the gypsy moth. This insect does its damage by defoliating trees 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. Therefore, it is vital to eliminate growing populations as soon as possible.

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 Ohio Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service / Forest Health Protection / Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Program (STS), 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.

Treatments will be made with one or a combination of the following:

- A single application of mating disruption product, either **Splat** or **Disrupt II** flakes. Both products contain a synthetic gypsy moth pheromone, ***disparlure***. 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.

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, 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. At the beginning of June, a pre-recorded message will be available to the public with information on where we are treating by calling 614-387-0907.

Information about the gypsy moth and the ODA Gypsy Moth Management Program, copies of the insecticide label, MSDS, and a map of the treatment area(s) are available on our website www.agri.ohio.gov/gypsymoth.

A Public Open House is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2014, at Upper Sandusky City Hall, 119 North 7th Street, Upper Sandusky, Ohio, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. If you cannot attend the Public Open House, but have questions about the project, you can contact our office by mail at the address listed at the top or by e-mail at plantpest@agri.ohio.gov. by March 1, 2014.

Sincerely,

David Adkins

David Adkins
Ag Inspection Manager

Block Name:
Upper Sandusky MD