



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
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June 15, 2005

re: Assistance with gypsy moth management

Dear Community Clerk;

If your community has a staff person responsible for trees, please forward this letter to him or her.

Late June and early July can bring numerous calls related to gypsy moth caterpillars being a nuisance and eating leaves off trees. Perhaps your community has begun to receive complaints from your residents. I am sending this letter to you to offer assistance with gypsy moth problems and to provide some suggestions to combat the problem in the future.

The eastern half of the state of Wisconsin is now quarantined for gypsy moth. This means that tree-defoliating populations of the gypsy moths may be present at any location within this region. It is unlikely that any municipality in this region is devoid of gypsy moths; in many areas they are probably present at a low level that escapes notice.

Here are some suggestions to help your community cope with the gypsy moth complaints. First, if you are unfamiliar with the gypsy moth and are not sure how to identify gypsy moth caterpillars, information is available from a variety of sources. Go to the Wisconsin Gypsy Moth Internet site at gypsymoth.wi.gov for links to the following sites with information on the pest. The UW Extension site has many photos to help with identification, explains controls options for homeowners and has several informational brochures that can be downloaded and printed. The DNR gypsy moth site contains information on gypsy moth and the spray program for suppression of outbreaks. DNR staff can provide your community with informational pamphlets that can be made available to the public (see contact information below). If you can't find the answer to your questions on the websites, please call 1-800-642-MOTH (6684) and leave a message for the DNR staff. This message line is checked daily during the summer and several times a week during the rest of the year and we will get back to you with an answer shortly. Please feel free to refer your residents to the website or toll free telephone number listed above.

Second, track (through listing or mapping) all the complaints of gypsy moth damage and nuisance that are reported to your office. Make sure the person(s) who answers calls for your community government knows to record the name and address of people calling to complain about caterpillars. Recording complaints is an effective way of pinpointing likely infestations. These records can be used to guide site visits to assess the extent of the problem and to determine if participation in the DNR gypsy moth suppression spray program is an appropriate option for your community.

Finally, the Wisconsin DNR gypsy moth suppression program can provide assistance in dealing with gypsy moth outbreaks on a larger scale (neighborhoods as opposed to single residences). Our program provides inexpensive, cost-shared aerial applications of a caterpillar-specific insecticide to manage gypsy moth populations. Suppression program eligibility requires a gypsy moth population high enough to cause defoliation, 25% tree coverage in residential areas and 50% tree coverage in rural areas, that 50% of the trees present be preferred host trees (e.g. oaks, willow, birches, and others), and an infestation 20 acres or greater in size.

For more information on the grant program and its requirements, visit the DNR Web site listed above. Grants are offered through counties so contact your county government if your community is interested in participating in the suppression program. A list of county coordinators and their contact information is available at the DNR website. We are in the process of updating the application for the 2006 season. Updated versions of applications for the suppression program will be put on the DNR web site as soon as available and mailed to each county coordinator in the fall. Grant applications for spraying in the spring of 2006 are due December 2, 2005.

For more assistance with gypsy moth problems, contact the DNR regional gypsy moth suppression coordinator for your county:

DNR Regional Suppression Coordinators	
<p>Mark Guthmiller South Central Region DNR-Fitchburg 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd. Fitchburg, WI 53711 Phone: (608)275-3223 Fax: (608)275-3236 E-mail: mark.guthmiller@dnr.state.wi.us</p>	<p>Counties served: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha</p>
<p>Bill McNee Northeast Region DNR – Green Bay 2984 Shawano Ave., P.O. Box 10448 Green Bay, WI 54307 phone: (920) 662-5430 fax: (920) 662-5413 E-mail: bill.mcnee@dnr.state.wi.us</p>	<p>Counties served: Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Forest, Florence, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Portage, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, Vilas, Oneida, Lincoln</p>
<p>Bria Radtke West Central Region DNR- Eau Claire 1300 West Clairemont Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54702 Phone: (715)-831-3278 Fax: (715)-8396076 E-mail: bria.radtke@dnr.state.wi.us</p>	<p>Counties Served: Crawford, Marathon, Portage, Wood, Adams, Juneau, Vernon, Monroe, La Crosse, Jackson, Clark, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Eau Claire, Chippewa, Pepin, Dunn, St Croix and Pierce</p>

The best of luck with your gypsy moth situation.

Sincerely,



Andrea Diss
 State Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator
 Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is part of the Wisconsin Cooperative Gypsy Moth Management Program.