

April 21, 2003

TO: Residents in the Fisher (Five Rivers) area, Lincoln Co.

FROM: Kathleen J.R. Johnson, Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program Supervisor,
Plant Division

SUBJECT: Gypsy Moth Aerial Spray Notice

A gypsy moth infestation was found in your area in 2002. Three moths, several old and new egg masses as well as additional life stages were found. This indicates a viable reproducing population is present in the area. The Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture has approved a proposal to eradicate this infestation before it can spread any further this spring. Information about the spray program, Btk and your health, precautions during the spray program, follow-up monitoring and resources for additional information are provided in this notice. Gypsy moth is not welcome in Oregon. Accidentally introduced into the U.S. from Europe in 1869, it now infests all or part of 18 states, mostly in the northeastern U.S., where it defoliates about 3 million acres of woodlands per year. Gypsy moth has the potential to impact Oregon's home and property owners, businesses, agricultural commodities, watersheds, forest lands, urban and suburban environments, recreational opportunities, tourism and wildlife.

Facts About the Spray Program: The eradication area covers approximately 706 acres in the Fisher (Five Rivers) area, Lincoln Co. (see map). It includes both private and federal land including a portion of Siuslaw National Forest. Three aerial applications of Btk are planned at about 7 to 14 day intervals beginning in late April and May, 2003. Spraying will be done by helicopter, and **start approximately one-half hour before sunrise weather permitting**. Only a small amount of Foray[®]48B (0.5 gallons) will be applied per acre. It is likely that a small buffer area surrounding this eradication area will receive some Btk, but in quantities much less than the eradication area. **Spraying should be completed in two to three hours unless delayed by weather or other factors**. This same application procedure has been used in many successful gypsy moth eradication programs in both urban and rural areas of Oregon as well as other states. The tentative treatment schedule is as follows:

<u>Tentative Spray Schedule:</u>	
1st Application	April 29
2nd Application	May 8
3rd Application	May 21

This schedule is subject to change depending on weather conditions. During the spray project, the following local radio stations will be informed of specific spray dates and any changes in the planned spray schedule: KLCC-FM (89.7), KNPT-AM (1310), KYTE-FM (102.7). Current spray schedule information can also be obtained at 1-800-525-0137.

Facts About Btk: Btk is a naturally occurring bacterium commonly found in soil. Btk is toxic only to susceptible caterpillars of butterflies and moths. Btk has an excellent safety record. It is not toxic to other insects, birds, fish, or mammals including healthy humans, pets and livestock. It can be applied over water without endangering aquatic life. Ingestion of leaves treated with Btk suppresses the caterpillars' appetites and slows movement. Caterpillars generally die within several days. This is the same insecticide that has been used in gypsy moth eradication programs in many urban and rural areas in Oregon including: Portland, Gresham, Beaverton, West Linn, Hillsboro, Lake Oswego, Carver, Salem, Aumsville, Corvallis, Philomath, Eugene, Springfield, Veneta, Dorena Lake, Lane County, Douglas County, Cave Junction, Jacksonville, and Ashland. The Btk product we propose to use will be Foray[®] 48B. Foray[®] 48B is water-based and formulated for aerial application. Foray[®] 48B is the only Btk formulation with an

extensive record of public health studies from similar eradication programs in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and New Zealand.

Environmental Assessment: An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess possible environmental impacts of the proposed program and fulfill federal requirements for cooperative state-federal gypsy moth eradication programs. A copy of the final EA including a summary of comments received is available at ODA's Web site: [oda.state.or.us/plant/hot topics/final ea/index](http://oda.state.or.us/plant/hot%20topics/final%20ea/index). To request a copy, please contact the Plant Division at the address below.

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What should I do during the spraying? – Oregon Health Services

Even though the spray is considered safe for humans, we recommend that people stay indoors during spraying, unless it is essential to be outdoors. You should be advised in advance by the Department of Agriculture when spraying will occur, so you may plan accordingly. This is general advice for the public. If you or someone in your home has a medical problem that they believe may be made worse by the spraying, talk to your health care provider.

If your drinking water source is from open surface water (e.g., creeks, streams, springs) and you are concerned about potential exposure, you may wish to shut off the intake during the spray and until you are satisfied that any water exposed to the spray has moved downstream of your intake. Alternative water sources in the interim might include previously stored and covered water on site, bottled water, or water from a neighbor outside the sprayed area. To avoid exposure, we recommend:

1. Staying indoors during and for at least 30 minutes after spraying to allow droplets to settle.
2. Waiting until the spray has dried before touching grass or shrubs. Cover playground equipment, sandboxes, benches, and lawn chairs before the spray or hose them off afterward.
3. Washing exposed skin with soap and water if direct contact with the spray droplets occurs. If the material should get into your eyes, flush with water for 15 minutes.

What about people with weakened immune systems and people with allergies? Although we don't have evidence that Btk will affect any given group of people, individuals with leukemia, AIDS, or any other physician-diagnosed causes of severe immune disorders, may consider leaving the spray area during the actual spraying. If you or someone in your home has one of these conditions, ask your doctor for advice about avoiding exposure before the spray project begins.

The Btk product contains residues of grains and other foods used to help the bacteria grow. If you have serious allergies to foods or food preservatives, your health care provider may consult with the manufacturer of Foray[®] 48B, about the exact ingredients (Valent Biosciences, 847-968-4700, after hours 877-315-9819).

Removing Spray Residues: Foray[®] 48B is formulated to stick to leaves when dry. There is nothing in Foray[®] 48B that should cause permanent damage to finishes on cars, buildings, play equipment, or lawn furniture. Spray residue is easiest to remove from any surface before it is completely dry. Once dry, it is important to "re-wet" the droplets by soaking them with water and for cars, a car wash detergent. Allow enough time for this re-wetting to occur. The time required will depend on how long the droplets have been on the surface, whether the surface has been directly in the hot sun, etc. Using a soft cloth or sponge, the droplets will then be easily removed. Repeat this simple process if some droplets remain. This process has proven very effective and has been well received by car owners in many areas where Foray[®] 48B has been used.



Oregon

Department
of Agriculture

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Gypsy Moth Spray Program Notice

For Further Information:

- If you have been exposed to Btk and have concerns or questions about possible health effects, wash the affected area and contact the Oregon Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.
- The Btk product contains residues of grains and other foods used to help the bacteria grow. If you have serious allergies to food or food preservatives, your health care provider may consult with Oregon Health Services (OHS), 503-731-4025, or the manufacturer, Valent BioSciences, 847-968-4700 (after hours 877-315-9819) regarding the ingredients of Foray® 48B. Questions and answers concerning gypsy moth spraying and your health can be found at OHS's Web site <http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/pesticide/btkfacts.cfm>.
- For more information about Btk, contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), based at Oregon State University at 800-858-7378, or visit their Web site at <http://npic.orst.edu> (Btk fact sheet at <http://ace.orst.edu/info/npic/facsheets/Btgen.pdf>).
- For more information on spray times, dates, locations, gypsy moth, Btk (including studies on Btk and human health) or post-treatment trapping programs visit the ODA Plant Division Web site oda.state.or.us/plant/ or call the Oregon Department of Agriculture at 800-525-0137 or 503-986-4636, or by email: gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us