

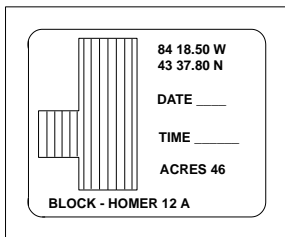
**TRI-LAKES GYPSY MOTH CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT
2022 NOTIFICATION OF
AERIAL SPRAYING FOR THE CONTROL
OF SPONGY MOTH LARVAE**

Dear Property Owner:

One or more of your parcels of land is included in the Tri-Lakes Spongy Moth Assessment District. Over 80% of the parcels within the District have been identified by survey to require treatment in 2022. **The identified properties** are scheduled to be sprayed by aircraft with the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (B.t.k.) in late May or early June.

Most of the spraying will be done during the early morning hours when the air is cool, and winds are at a minimum. The exact date and time cannot be known in advance as spray depends on the insect stage, leaf development, and weather conditions.

The applicator will use the on-board Global Positioning System (GPS) that tracks the aircraft's position several times a second in



relationship to the spray block. The cockpit computer also checks off each spray block as it is completed.

The B.t.k. spray is applied in a very fine mist for maximum coverage of the leaves. It is applied at one quart per acre in droplets only 5/1000 of an inch in diameter.

This protects the leaves with about 50 droplets per square inch. Most of the time the spray cannot be seen or felt. Rain has little effect on the spray if it has had time to dry.

B.t.k. is a biological insecticide and is known only to affect the caterpillars of moths and

butterflies that are actively feeding at the time of treatment. After ingestion, it destroys the caterpillar's stomach and the insect slowly dies. After spray, you may notice a change in the gypsy moth caterpillars after two or three days. They stop feeding, become sluggish and sometimes mass in sheltered areas. It may take up to a week for caterpillars that ingested the B.t.k. to die.

Eradication of the Spongy Moth is not possible and should not be expected. The intent of the spray program is to give heavily infested home areas some relief from the caterpillar nuisance and to protect other areas from outbreaks when feasible. Homeowners are encouraged to reduce the Spongy Moth population in their area by ground spraying, collecting and destroying egg masses, and destroying caterpillars; but no single method should be relied on for complete control.

Maps showing the areas scheduled for treatment are available for viewing at the Morton Township Hall and on the internet at www.Mortontownship.org or on the Tri-Lakes website at www.thetrilakes.org.

As the optimal time for spraying approaches (late May or early June), monitor the above websites for more details, or view updated information on the Morton Township Facebook page or the Tri-Lakes Association Facebook page.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Morton Township for Tri-Lakes Spongy Moth Control Program
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