
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Forests and Range

AERIAL GYPSY MOTH TREATMENT PLANNED IN RICHMOND

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Forests and Range has applied for a pesticide use permit to aerial-spray 806 hectares in Richmond, with a spray approved for use on organic farms, to eradicate a growing population of gypsy moth and minimize the risk they pose to forests, farms, orchards, and trees.

Trapping and monitoring results indicate a growing gypsy moth population in the proposed treatment area, from the Fraser River to Westminster Highway, and from Gilbert Road to No. 5 Road.

If left untreated, the moth could spread to new areas of the province via the container, rail and shipyards found in Richmond.

The ministry has proposed up to four aerial applications of Foray 48B between April 15 and June 30, 2010 to control the moth. The permit application and map are available at Richmond city hall and online at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/gypsymoth.

Residents are invited to submit their comments on the application for evaluation to the Integrated Pest Management Act administrator by Dec. 18, 2009.

Foray 48B has been approved for use on organic farms by the Organic Materials Review Institute and contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var *kurstaki* (Btk). Btk does not harm humans, mammals, birds, fish, plants, reptiles, amphibians, bees or other insects and only affects caterpillars after they have ingested it.

Btk is naturally present in urban, forest and agricultural soil around the province. It has been approved for the control of gypsy moth larvae in Canada since 1961.

The gypsy moth is an introduced pest species, with caterpillars that feed on tree leaves and that can damage forests, farms and orchards. Large gypsy moth populations defoliated sections of forests and residential areas in Ontario and the eastern U.S. in recent years.

The moths are unintentionally brought to B.C. on vehicles and equipment from eastern North America. Infested locations are often subject to product and transportation quarantines and area treatment, including individual vehicle checks, and annual aerial spraying.

For more information, please visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/gypsymoth, or call 1-866-917-5999 toll free.

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