



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM

Division of Plant Industry, Plant Pest Control Section
8995 E. Main St. Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 Phone: (614)-728-6400
<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/gypsy/gypsy-index.aspx>



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY BLOCK COORDINATORS

Q. Can more than one person be a block coordinator for one area?

A. Yes. In fact, in densely populated areas or in very large spray blocks, it is much easier for several people working together to obtain the maps and signatures needed to complete an application.

Q. Am I liable for anything if I act as the block coordinator?

A. Block coordinators are not responsible for the effectiveness of the spray program or any complaints received by ODA or their contractors. However, you are responsible for making sure all the property owners in your block have signed the application, giving their approval for the spray program. In addition, you must inform ODA if there are any objectors in your block.

Q. Why do all property owners need to approve of the proposed spray and provide their signatures with the application?

A. Requiring all property owners in the proposed spray block allows ODA to verify that everyone has given prior consent to the spray project. If the application is processed and surveys are completed before all property owners have given their approval, it is possible that someone could object to the spray application after ODA personnel have put in time and resources evaluating the site. If that happened, treatment of the site could be canceled.

Q. What if one person (or more) objects to the spray program?

A. If one or more property owners objects to the spray program, the approval of the entire block may be jeopardized, depending on the location of the objectors within the block. If objectors are located on the edges of the block, the boundaries might be changed to eliminate their properties. It is

important to make the boundaries of the block as square as possible to allow for accurate, efficient aerial treatment.

Q. Why is a spray block required to be at least 50 acres in area?

A. The effective way to treat an infested area of trees is by applying appropriate insecticides from a small plane. Unfortunately, the cost of this method of application is high, and aerial application of areas less than 50 acres is not cost effective.

Q. Can't you just spray the whole city (township, county, state)?

A. Even though unnecessary sprays would not be harmful to people, and in most cases would not be harmful to the environment, any spray applied over areas where there are no gypsy moths present would be wasted. In addition, the ODA Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is a voluntary program. Some people may object to having their property sprayed and ODA must honor those wishes.

Q. Is there any cost to the property owners?

A. Yes. Property owners will be assessed a per acre cost share fee to cover the treatment expense. A property owner's share would not be more than half of the per acre cost of the spray application.

Q. Can you tell me an exact date and time of the application?

A. ODA cannot determine the dates and times of the spray applications in a particular area. The starting date for sprays is determined by monitoring the development of the tree leaves and the gypsy moth caterpillars. This is usually around early to mid May. After the start of the spray project, timing of applications for different spray blocks is determined by a number of factors, such as location,

size of block, insecticide to be used, number of spray planes available, etc.

To get current information about the progress of the spray program and approximate times of treatments, after May 1, property owners can call the Gypsy Moth Hotline at 614-387-0907 for a recorded message that is updated daily.

Q. I don't have gypsy moth yet, but I want to get my property sprayed anyway.

A. Gypsy moth suppression sprays are not preventative, so treating non-infested areas is not effective. When an application is submitted, a field inspector will survey the properties to confirm that gypsy moth population levels warrant a suppression treatment.

Q. Which insecticide should I choose?

A. ODA personnel can provide guidance in choosing the appropriate treatment material for a block.

Q. My property is adjacent to parkland or a wildlife preserve. Will that affect my treatment options?

A. In many cases, parkland or wildlife preserves "opt out" of ODA's Suppression Program. When completing your application, contact the Field Inspector for your area and tell them that your property is adjacent to parkland or wildlife preserve. The inspector can help you determine how your proposed block will be affected.

Q. Will have to complete an application for next year?

A. An application for gypsy moth survey must be completed and submitted each year that treatment is desired.

Q. Why is the deadline so early?

A. After an Application for Gypsy Moth Survey is submitted, a field inspector will examine it to determine whether it is complete and if the spray block boundaries are drawn appropriately, etc. If the application is complete, the property is then

scheduled for an egg mass survey. Depending on the number of applications submitted to ODA, surveys of all proposed spray sites may not be completed until December. After that, the total acreage of spray sites is calculated. The remainder of the time before the start of the Suppression Project in May is needed for bidding out the contract, preparing various environmental plans, and other tasks.

For further information please contact:

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