



**The Wisconsin  
Department of Agriculture,  
Trade and Consumer  
Protection Gypsy Moth  
Slow the Spread Program**

- Wisconsin is one of several states participating in the U.S.D.A. National Slow the Spread of the Gypsy Moth Project.
- The program concentrates at the front of the gypsy moth spread zone, which are areas where the pest has not yet been established. In Wisconsin, this is mostly the western half of the state.
- As part of the STS program, DATCP detects the spread of gypsy moth by conducting aerial spraying, trapping and egg mass surveys. Trapping is not used as a method of population control. Trapping and egg mass survey information is used to determine spraying areas.
- DATCP also deals with quarantine issues and regulations for nurseries, paper and lumber mills, and movers to help prevent accidental spread of gypsy moth.

Wisconsin started a state survey program for gypsy moth in the 1970s after the pest was first known in the state. In 1999, Wisconsin became part of the STS Program. Spray program information for the current year, including maps of the proposed spray sites, will be available online starting in March at [www.gypsymoth.wi.gov](http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov). Information is also available by calling 1-800-642-MOTH or by e-mailing [gypsymoth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:gypsymoth@wisconsin.gov).

**Benefits**

- Reduces the spread of gypsy moth to 3 miles per year.
- Protects the extensive urban and wild land hardwood forests in the south and upper Midwest.
- Protects the environment through the use of gypsy moth specific treatment tactics.
- Unifies and promotes a well coordinated, region-wide action based on biological need.
- Yields a benefit to cost ratio of more than 4 to 1 by delaying the onset of impacts that occur as gypsy moth invades new areas.

**Treatment methods**

A single or double aerial application of the microbial insecticide Foray, containing the bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*, (Btk). Gypchek, a viral insecticide specific to gypsy moth caterpillars, will be applied where endangered or threatened moths or butterflies are present or are likely present. Pheromone flakes, a mating disruptor, works to confuse male moths when searching for a female in the summer and prevents reproduction.

**Timing of treatment**

It is weather dependent, but generally starts by middle to late May in southern Wisconsin; later further north. Caterpillars are targeted when they are less than half-inch long and when leaves on host trees are less than half size. Pheromone flake treatments start right before moths emerge from their cocoons in the summer.

**For additional help, call 1-800-642-MOTH  
or visit Wisconsin Gypsy Moth on the Web at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>**