



Public Notice of Pesticide Use for Spongy Moth Control at Royal Botanical Gardens

Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) intends to apply a bio-pesticide using a low-flying helicopter over the treed areas of the Arboretum and forested areas within our Nature Sanctuaries to control Spongy Moth (formerly LDD or Gypsy Moth) caterpillar populations from eating leaves that causes significant defoliation of our trees which can have long-term impacts on forest health.

Areas within the City of Hamilton:

RBG Arboretum
North Shore Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary
Berry Tract Nature Sanctuary
Rock Garden (forested edges only)

Areas within the City of Burlington:

Hendrie Valley Nature Sanctuary

RBG's contractor will apply a Class B pesticide, Foray 48B Biological Insecticide Aqueous Suspension, REGISTRATION NO. 24977 under the *Pest Control Products Act* (Canada), with active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies 'kurstaki' (Btk).

Each location will receive **two** applications 7-10 days apart between **May 15 – June 10, 2022** and take place in the early morning between **5 and 8 a.m.** There will be no access to these properties during the time of application and **trails will be closed**.

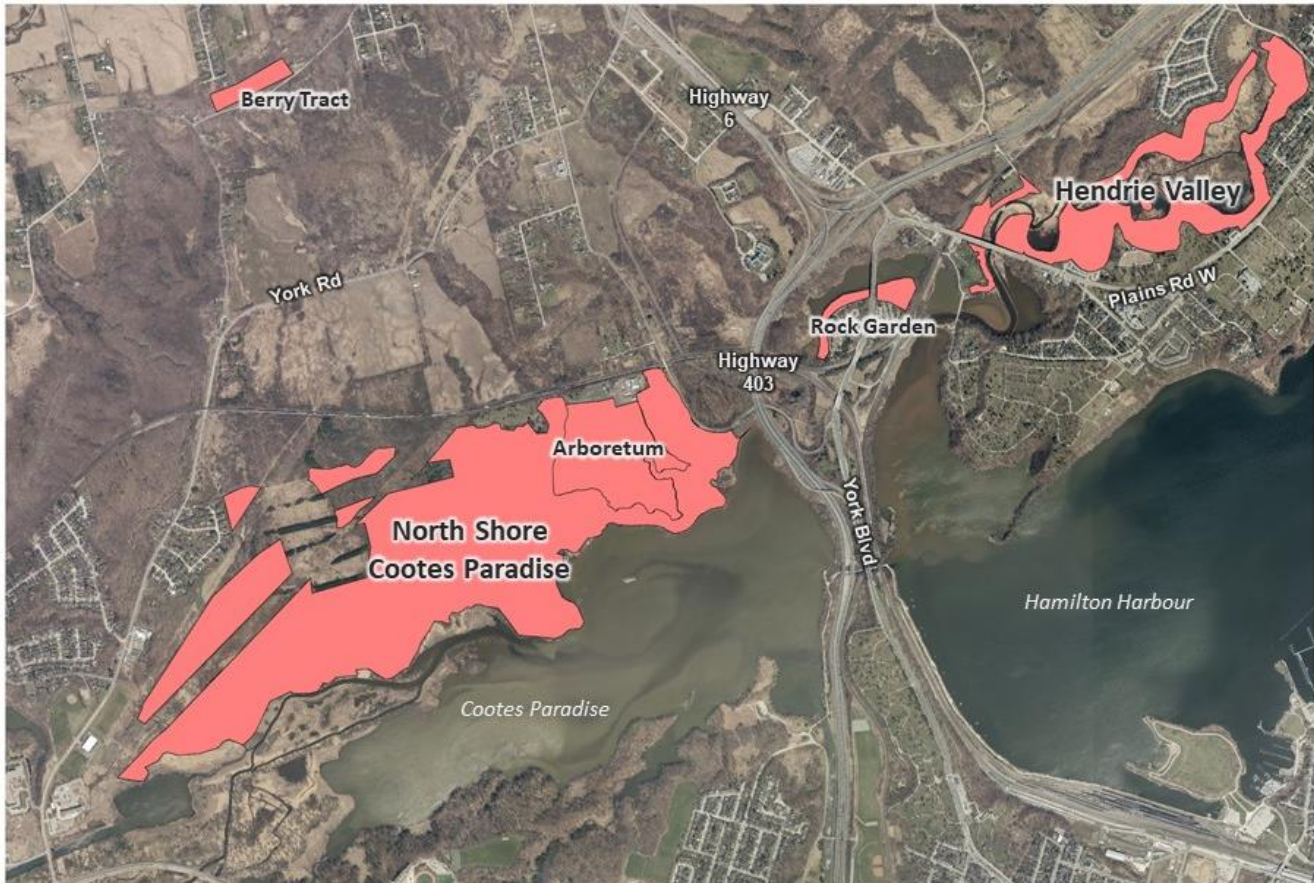
The precise dates of the spray applications are weather dependent and involve specific timing to match the required life stage of the caterpillars. RBG will communicate spray dates at least 48-hours prior through RBG's social media (Facebook, Twitter @RBGCanada) and online at www.rbg.ca/spongy-moth-management/.

Residents can sign up to receive direct notice of spray application dates through;

- email found at the bottom of the following link www.rbg.ca/spongy-moth-management/,
- or phone by calling 1-800-694-479. Collect calls accepted; please dial "0" for general inquiries.

Individuals who have concerns should take reasonable precautions to avoid exposure during a spray program in the same way they would avoid pollen or other airborne materials during days when air quality advisories are issued. Residents can also reduce exposure by staying indoors with windows and doors shut during the spray period if spraying is taking place in their area, although this is not required by health officials.

For further information, please contact Emily Sharma, Communications Coordinator 905-527-1158 (1-800-694-4769) x 223, esharma@rbg.ca.



ABOUT Btk

Bacillus thuringiensis 'kurstaki' (Btk) is a soil-borne bacterium that is applied to the leaves of affected trees while caterpillars are in their early stages of development. Once ingested, the bacterium disrupts the caterpillars' digestive system with cessation of eating within 24-48 hours. Within days, caterpillars that have ingested Btk will succumb to its effects. Btk does not have any negative effects to humans, birds and other wildlife or bees. Btk will affect other caterpillar species (known as non-target species) who are at the same life stage. Due to its low residual nature and the narrow spray window of pest development, the non-target impact is expected to be low.

ABOUT SPONGY MOTHS

European Spongy moth, *Lymantria dispar dispar* (formerly known as Gypsy Moth), is a non-native invasive pest that was introduced in the late 19th century. It was first discovered in Ontario in the 1960's and has been a major defoliator of deciduous and coniferous trees across Southern Ontario.

Visit our website <https://www.rbg.ca/spongy-moth-management/> for further details about Spongy Moth and RBG's forest management efforts.