Ohio | Department of Agriculture

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GYPSY MOTH MATING DISRUPTION TREATMENTS TO BEGIN IN NORTHWEST OHIO

Allen, Hancock, Putnam and Van Wert counties to receive treatment

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 7, 2013) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture will begin aerial treatments designed to disrupt gypsy moth mating on 12,880 acres in Allen, Hancock, Putnam and Van Wert counties.

A yellow crop duster will fly 100 feet above the tree tops to apply the treatment. **Weather permitting**, treatments will begin in southeast Ohio the week of June 17th and move northward with a target completion date of June 27th.

In all counties receiving treatment, the department will use a single application of the product Disrupt II. This product does not kill the moth, but it disrupts the mating process by confusing the male as it searches for a female mate. Disrupt II is not harmful to birds, plants, pets or humans.

Pre-recorded daily updates about planned treatment blocks are available to citizens by calling 614-387-0907 or 800-282-1955 ext.37, after 5 p.m.

The gypsy moth is a non-native, invasive species that advanced into Ohio from Pennsylvania and Michigan during the past several years. In its caterpillar stage, it feeds on the leaves of more than 300 different trees and shrubs and is especially fond of oak. A healthy tree can usually withstand only two years of defoliation before it is permanently damaged or dies. To date, 51 of Ohio's 88 counties have established gypsy moth populations.

Treatment will take place across the state on a total of 89,195 acres in Allen, Athens, Champaign, Delaware, Fairfield, Hancock, Hardin, Hocking, Logan, Marion, Meigs, Putnam, Ross, Union, Van Wert, Vinton and Wyandot counties.

For more information on Disrupt II, maps of the application areas or general information about the gypsy moth, visit www.agri.ohio.gov/gypsymoth.

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