



INFORMATION – COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 28th, 2009

City Commences Cankerworm Control Program, Sunday, May 31st, 2009

Winnipeg, MB – Today, the Insect Control Branch announced the commencement of its cankerworm control program for trees in City parks and on City boulevards in specific areas of the City, where cankerworms are starting to cause significant levels of defoliation. Current surveillance information indicates that the larvae are now beginning to feed on the newly emerged leaves, causing many small holes known as “shot gun hole” damage.

The Insect Control Branch will begin its cankerworm control program this Sunday evening, May 31st, 2009 at 10:00 p.m. The program will move through various locations in the City and will focus on areas where trees are at risk of significant leaf damage. Spraying will occur five nights per week, Sunday to Thursday from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m., weather permitting.

This Sunday, May 31st, 2009 at 10:00 p.m. tree spraying will be carried out in St. Vital Park & Cemetery, Assiniboine Park, Brookside Cemetery, and Kildonan Park.

Please refer to the back of the 2008 MTS white pages or visit our website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline for a map of the Insect Management Areas.

Cankerworm Control Program Details

It is anticipated that the program will last for approximately one month. A Public Service Announcement will be issued daily providing information on what treed areas of the city will be sprayed that night. This announcement will also be posted on the Insect Control website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

Throughout the program, surveillance crews will continue to identify areas of the city where trees require treatment. Recent monitoring of the adult cankerworm population indicates that some parts of the city are expected to experience a significant emergence of cankerworms because of the large stands of American Elm, Manitoba Maple, Green Ash, and ornamental trees, the preferred host for spring and fall cankerworms.

Treatment will be conducted utilizing Btk, a biological product, which is sprayed from high pressure tree sprayers directly onto the foliage of the trees. Once Btk is ingested by cankerworms, they stop feeding and die approximately two to three days later.

Homeowners are responsible for control on their property

Homeowners are responsible for control on their property. Citizens can spray their own trees with Btk, which is available at most home and garden centres or can contract a tree spraying company by referring to the yellow pages under tree service or exterminators.

Homeowners are reminded to remove tree bands

Homeowners are reminded to remove bands on their trees as they serve no useful purpose now since the adult moths have already laid their eggs. Leaving the bands on the tree over the summer will cause more damage to the tree now as the bands will encourage rotting on the bark, thereby negatively affecting the health of the tree.

Mosquito Trap Counts

With respect to nuisance mosquito control, the City continues its aggressive larviciding program focusing on areas where additional standing water has accumulated as a result of the recent rainfall. Surveillance data indicates low to high levels of larvae in most standing water sites.

The AFA (Adulticiding Factor Analysis Guideline) continues to be “Low”. A small emergence of adult spring nuisance species is currently occurring. City wide New Jersey Light Trap count average is now at 0. Trap count data can be viewed at the Insect Control website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

MORE INFORMATION

Citizens may register for a 30m buffer zone for cankerworm control with Btk or a 100 meter buffer zone for adult nuisance mosquito control if they do not wish spraying to be carried out on or adjacent to their property. Citizens may register by contacting the Insect Control Branch in writing at 3 Grey Street, Winnipeg, MB, R2L 1V2, or by registering on line at Winnipeg.ca/bugline, or by faxing or calling 311.

Citizens may register for email notification regarding planned tree spraying by visiting our website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline. They can also register for telephone notification by calling or faxing 311 and providing their name, address and phone number. Once

registered, residents will receive automated phone or email notification identifying the area(s) of the City in which the Insect Control Crews are intending to work, weather permitting.

Interested individuals may acquire more information by contacting 311, or by visiting the City's Insect Control website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

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Media inquiries may be directed to the City of Winnipeg Media Inquiry Line at (204) 986-6000 or via email at MediaInquiry@winnipeg.ca.