



INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUÉ

**For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 20, 2010**

Update on Mosquito Control and Cankerworm Control Program

Winnipeg, MB – NUISANCE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

The Insect Control Branch continues an aggressive larviciding program in response to the unseasonably warm weather. Due to the forecast of continuing unseasonably warm temperatures, it is expected that the spring and summer adult nuisance mosquitoes will begin emerging over the next three to seven days, weather dependent.

In response to these challenging conditions, the aggressive larviciding program will continue in an effort to reduce the potential for the emergence of a significant adult nuisance mosquito population. The Insect Control Branch will be monitoring conditions on a daily basis, and are ready to implement the range of necessary control measures as conditions change.

The Insect Control Branch is utilizing all resources which include approximately 160 staff and 4 helicopters to check and treat approximately 33,000 hectares of potential water sites in Winnipeg and the surrounding 10 km treatment area.

AFA STILL LOW

Today, the city-wide New Jersey Light Trap count is still 4, but is likely to change as weather conditions continue to be summer like. Currently, the Adulticiding Factor Analysis (AFA) rating remains at Low.

The Insect Control Branch is closely monitoring the AFA conditions daily, and as the temperatures and conditions vary, this will likely result in an AFA change over the coming days.

HELP FIGHT THE BITE

The City is strongly encouraging property owners to also help "Fight the Bite" as approximately 50 percent of standing water sites are located on private property.

Homeowners can take one of the following steps to eliminate standing water on their properties:

- **Dump It!** - containers
- **Drain It!** - eavestroughing or unused containers
- **Cover It!** - rain water collection containers
- **Fill It!** - low-lying areas
- **Treat It!** - biological larvicide

CANKERWORM CONTROL PROGRAM

The Insect Control Branch's cankerworm control program, which began on Wednesday evening, May 12, 2010, has been progressing very well.

To date, the program has focused on trees which are at risk of significant leaf damage in City parks and on City boulevards. Assiniboine Park, Kildonan Park, St. Vital Park and Cemetery and Brookside & Elmwood Cemeteries and Insect Management Areas 7, 8 & 9 (Transcona) have been treated.

Tonight, May 20, 2010, the program will continue in Insect Management Area 30 (Central and South River Heights neighbourhoods).

It is anticipated that the program will last for approximately two to three more weeks. A Public Service Announcement will continue to 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.

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 the cankerworms, they stop feeding and die approximately two to three days later.

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 service 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.

Citizens may register for a 30m buffer zone if they do not wish spraying to be carried out on or adjacent to their property. Citizens may register by faxing 311, or 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.

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 311 and leaving 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.