

City of Walker Recommended Gypsy Moth Spray Areas 2020

By
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Block #	Acres	Reason for Spray
Walk01	99	A persistent population in prime habitat. Population is above nuisance threshold and could cause some tree damage in the northern portion of the block. Spray to limit nuisance and reduce chances of tree damage and rebound in the population.
Walk02	110	A remnant population in prime habitat. Population is above nuisance threshold. Tree damage should be minimal, but some defoliation is still possible. Spray to minimize tree damage and further suppress population growth.
Walk03	69	A persistent population in very good habitat. Habitat patch is isolated, but borders Grand Rapids City property with known gypsy moth infestation. Nuisance threshold has been reached, and tree damage is possible. Spray to limit nuisance and suppress population growth.
Walk04	102	A remnant population in good habitat. Spray to limit nuisance, and reduce chances of population rebound.
Walk05	64	A remnant population in very good habitat. Parts of the area are heavily forested so population rebound is possible. Spray to further suppress population and reduce chances of population rebound.
Walk06	65	A remnant population in very good habitat. Some trees in the area have sustained significant damage. Spray to reduce further tree damage, and suppress population growth.

Total Acreage = **509 acres**

All recommended blocks should be treated with *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (B.t.k.) spray in Spring 2020. Gypsy moth suppression programs in Michigan generally follow an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy which is focused on low environmental impact and economic awareness. Further, an IPM strategy intends to mitigate exponential population growth with treatment only until latent environmental controls begin to limit populations sufficiently. Many of the spray areas recommended last year show high levels of egg mortality and low persistence of adult moths. This implies that natural controls have started to act and that B.t.k. spray may not be advisable, economically or environmentally. Eradication of gypsy moths is not possible, so the

intent of the spray program is to reduce the populations to tolerable numbers. It is possible that some residents may still see caterpillars outside of recommended spray areas during this observational phase of suppression. Rest assured, we are aware of the situation and will be monitoring the area for population rebound. You will see that a portion of several old spray blocks is still recommended for spray in 2020. These areas still show high enough new egg mass counts that nuisance is possible and population rebound should be monitored. Accordingly, it is advisable that all recommended areas are treated with at least one application of B.t.k. in Spring 2020.