

# LAKE TOWNSHIP

## Huron County, Michigan

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May 12, 2023

To: Property Owners and Residents of Lake Township

Re: Notification of Aerial Spraying for the Control of Sponge Moth Larvae

Your property is located in the proposed treatment area for this year's Sponge Moth Suppression program. The purpose of this aerial spray is to provide relief to residents during sponge moth outbreaks. This will not eliminate the pests, but will reduce the number of caterpillars and the defoliation that they cause. The estimated time of spraying will be late May or early June (depending on weather conditions). Exact application dates will be determined by weather and caterpillar development as the spring progresses and will be announced on WLEW AM 1340 or FM 102.1.

Your property will be sprayed with a biological insecticide called *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) using Foray 48B. Btk only affects the caterpillars or moths that are actively feeding at the time of treatment. Organic gardeners have been using this pesticide for years. After ingestion, the toxins in the Btk paralyze the caterpillar's digestive system and in two to three days they become lethargic and stop feeding. In an effective spray application you may notice a change in the level of activity and responsiveness of the caterpillar, and they usually die in 5 to 7 days.

The spraying will be done by an aircraft in the early morning when the air is cool and winds are at a minimum. The spray will be applied in a very fine mist for maximum coverage of leaves. This will result in an effective spray that will be very difficult to see or feel as it is being applied. After 4 to 6 hours, the material will be dried on the leaves and rain will have little effect on washing the material off. Spraying will be done when average wind speed is less than 10 mph and the relative humidity is more than 50%. In most cases, these constraints will limit spraying to a morning activity but if conditions allow, spraying will continue until completed or conditions are no longer favorable for an effective application.

Should you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the Township Hall Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Valerie McCallum  
Supervisor