

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 10, 2007

City Commences Cankerworm Control Program

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 causing significant defoliation.

The Insect Control Branch will begin its cankerworm control program on Saturday evening, May 12, at 9:30 p.m. The program will focus on trees which are at risk of significant leaf damage in Insect Management Areas 7, 8, 9, 39, 40, 42. This includes the following neighbourhoods.

Insect Management Areas	Neighborhoods
7	Peguis, Regent, Meadows, Griffin, Radisson and Victoria West
8	Transcona North, Kildare-Redonda, Kern Park and Canterbury Park
9	Mission Gardens, Dugald, St Boniface Industrial Park, Melrose, Transcona Yards and Transcona South
39	Brooklands, Sargent Park and St James Industrial
40	Kingsington, Minto, Polo Park, St Matthews and West Wolseley
42	Central Park, Colony, Daniel McIntyre, Portage-Ellice, Spence and West Alexander

Please refer to the back of the 2007 telephone white pages or visit our website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline for a map of the Insect Management Areas.

Each day, surveillance crews will 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, and Green Ash trees, the preferred host of the cankerworms. Cankerworm populations have been increasing over the past few years and are expected to peak this year. The larvae are beginning to feed on the newly emerged leaves, causing small holes in many of the leaves. It is expected that some trees may be completely defoliated.

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.

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

Citizens may register for a buffer zone 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, R2L 1V2, or by fax at 986-4868 or by registering on line at Winnipeg.ca/bugline

With respect to nuisance mosquito control, the City continues its larviciding program focusing on areas where standing water has developed as a result of rainfall over the weekend. A small emergence of adult spring nuisance species is continuing.

Interested individuals may acquire more information by contacting the City's Bugline at 986-3210 Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by visiting the City's Insect Control website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

- 30 -

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