



INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 6 2010

City Begins 2010 Insect Control Season

Winnipeg, MB –Today, the City of Winnipeg announced the start of its surveillance and larviciding activities for the 2010 nuisance mosquito control season.

This season's mosquito control program will continue to be based on the more environmentally-friendly Insect Control Strategy adopted by Council in 2005 which:

- Decreases the use of chemicals and increases the use of biologicals for larviciding
- Uses a balanced control approach including larviciding, biocontrols and residual treatments, and when necessary, fogging, to supplement these on-going measures.

Surveillance of standing water sites in and around Winnipeg began this season on April 26th. At this time, low larval populations are being reported. Ground and aerial-based larviciding activities are occurring daily, weather permitting.

- As in 2009, the Insect Control Branch continues to use 4 larviciding helicopters on contract.
- The total number of staff working at the Branch will be similar to last year, with approximately 160 staff being employed.
- Currently the Branch monitors and treats over 33,000 hectares of water area on an ongoing basis.
- Our GIS database contains approximately 7,000 standing water listings, many of which contain multiple sites.
- Monitoring for adult nuisance mosquitoes in the NJLT's started April 30th this season and the latest trap count is 0. The trap counts and AFA will be posted on the website daily at www.Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

Larviciding targets mosquito larvae in the aquatic stage before they emerge as adults and is the most effective and environmentally-friendly approach to controlling mosquitoes. Biological products will continue to be used in environmentally-sensitive areas such as residential areas, parks, and playgrounds. Similar to last year, we are expecting to utilize biological products for approximately one-third of the total larviciding program which is a significant increase since 2001 when only 2% of the products applied were biological.

Fogging will be initiated only when the requirements of both the City policy, utilizing the AFA (Aldiciding Factor Analysis) Guidelines, and the provincial pesticide use permit are met. If

fogging is required, the program will be carried out in the entire city (buffer zones respected), prioritizing first for areas with highest nuisance mosquito populations. For details on the AFA factors, please refer to the Insect Control website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline. A 48 hour public notice will be issued prior to a nuisance fogging program being implemented. Daily public notices will also be issued detailing where fogging will occur that night. Personal notification by telephone or email of the mosquito fogging programs activities is also available by contacting the Insect Control Branch in writing at 3 Grey Street, R2L 1V2, by email at 311@winnipeg.ca, by fax at 311 or by registering on-line at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

Property owners not wanting insecticides applied on or adjacent to their principle residence may register as "Buffer Zone Registrants" for both cankerworm and/or adult mosquito control. Those who wish to register may contact the Insect Control Branch in writing at 3 Grey Street, R2L 1V2, by faxing it to 311 or on our convenient on-line registration at Winnipeg.ca/bugline. A minimum 48-hour turnaround time is required for processing so residents are reminded to begin registering now for the 2010 season, in the event that cankerworm control or mosquito fogging is required.

Insect Management Areas will continue to be used to assist the public and the media in locating areas which are being treated. All Winnipeg neighbourhoods have been grouped into 51 Insect Management Areas so that as residents become familiar with their Insect Management Area, they will find it much easier to reference when their area is going to be treated. Information on all fogging and cankerworm control activities will be provided by referencing the specific Insect Management Area in which they are being carried out. These maps, including buffer zone registration forms can be found on our website, Winnipeg.ca/bugline, as handouts at all City libraries, and in the back of the MTS White Pages. You can also find out the Insect Management area that you live in by calling 311.

Property owners are also encouraged to eliminate standing water on their properties by taking one of the following steps:

Dump It! - containers

Drain It! - eavestroughing or unused containers

Cover It! - rain water collection containers

Fill It! - low-lying areas

Treat It! - biological larvicide

Cankerworms

Areas in the city are likely to start experiencing defoliation soon. The deciduous trees in Winnipeg are already in leaf and the cankerworms are hatching.

Based on our fall and spring tree band monitoring, ICB expects certain areas of the city to be defoliated by cankerworm larvae feeding on the foliage of the trees. However, the counts are continuing to fall from their peak.

Areas in the city that may experience defoliation include: North End, Transcona, Fort Garry, River Heights/Tuxedo.

Many citizens of Winnipeg banded their trees last fall and spring and this will certainly help to lessen the cankerworm population. Areas of the City which have been extensively banded should experience less defoliation than areas where banding was less prevalent.

It is too late to carry out any further banding of your trees this spring as the vast majority of wingless female moths have already climbed the tree and laid their eggs in the crown. The banding of trees needs to occur before the first significant thaw to control spring cankerworm populations. Please remember to remove the bands after the May long weekend and put new sticky bands up in early September to control the fall cankerworm.

Interested individuals may acquire more information by contacting the City at 311 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