



INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUÉ

**For Immediate Release
Friday, June 3, 2011**

City begins localised Cankerworm Control Program, Monday, June 6, 2011

Winnipeg, MB – Today, the Insect Control Branch announced the commencement of its cankerworm control program for City trees. This season's program will be treating very selective City boulevards and focussing on City cemeteries and parks, where cankerworms are starting to cause significant levels of defoliation. Current surveillance information indicates that the larvae are feeding on the leaves, causing many small holes known as "shot hole" damage.

The Insect Control Branch will begin its cankerworm control program this Monday, June 6, 2011 at 6:30 a.m. The program will move through various locations in the City and will focus on areas where trees are at risk of significant leaf damage

Monday, June 6, 2011 at 6:30 a.m. tree spraying will be carried out in Elmwood Cemetery.

Cankerworm Control Program Details

A Public Service Announcement will be issued daily providing information on what treed areas of the city will be sprayed the following day. This announcement will also be posted on the Insect Control [website](#).

Throughout the program, surveillance crews will continue to identify areas of the city where trees require treatment.

Recent monitoring of the adult cankerworm population indicates that most areas of the city will have minimal damage except on some very localized streets where major defoliation may occur due to the cankerworm larvae feeding on the foliage of the large stands of American Elm, Manitoba Maple, Green Ash, and ornamental trees, the preferred host for spring and fall cankerworms.

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 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 company by referring to the yellow pages under tree service or exterminators.

Please remember to remove any tree bands as the band will damage the bark of the tree if left on throughout the summer. To control fall cankerworm please put new sticky bands up in early September.

General Information

Citizens may register for a 30m buffer zone for cankerworm control with Btk or a 100m buffer zone for adult nuisance mosquito control if they do not wish spraying to be carried out on or adjacent to their property. Those who wish to register must provide identification that ties the registrant to the address being registered for a buffer zone. A photocopy or scanned document like a driver's licence, Manitoba Hydro, MTS or other utility bill will suffice as acceptable identification proving primary residence. There are four different options to register: in writing to Insect Control Branch at 3 Grey Street, R2L 1V2, by faxing or e-mailing 311, or in person at 1539 Waverley Street.

Citizens may register for email notification regarding planned tree spraying by visiting our [website](#). They can also register for telephone notification by calling or faxing 311 and providing 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](#).

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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.