



INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUÉ

**For Immediate Release
Thursday, June 9, 2011**

Update on Mosquito and Cankerworm Control Programs

Winnipeg, MB – Nuisance Mosquito Control Program

The Insect Control Branch continues an aggressive larviciding program in response to the receding flood waters and recent rain fall. Due to the forecast of continuing unseasonably cool temperatures, it is expected that the final generation of the spring adult nuisance mosquitoes and the first generation of summer adult nuisance mosquitoes will begin emerging over the next 7 days, weather dependent.

In response to these challenging conditions, the aggressive larviciding program will continue utilizing all resources which include approximately 160 staff and 4 helicopters to check and treat approximately 35,000 hectares of potential larval development sites in Winnipeg and the surrounding 10 km treatment area to reduce the potential for the emergence of a significant adult nuisance mosquito population. The Entomologist will be monitoring conditions on a daily basis, and is ready to implement the range of control measures available as nuisance activity and environmental conditions vary.

Today, the city-wide New Jersey Light Trap count is 0. Currently, the Adulticiding Factor Analysis (AFA) rating remains at Low. The Insect Control Branch is closely monitoring the AFA conditions daily, and will change the level as the factors that make up the AFA vary.

PLEASE HELP FIGHT THE BITE!

The City is strongly encouraging property owners to also help “Fight the Bite” as approximately 50 percent of standing water sites are located on private property. Homeowners can take one of the following steps to eliminate standing water on their properties:

- **Dump It!** - containers
- **Drain It!** - eavestroughing or unused containers
- **Cover It!** - rain water collection containers
- **Fill It!** - low-lying areas
- **Treat It!** - biological larvicide

Cankerworm Control Program

The Insect Control Branch's cankerworm control program, which began on Monday, June 6, 2011, has focused on trees which are at risk of significant leaf damage in City parks, cemeteries and boulevards. To date, Elmwood Cemetery and portions of Insect Management Areas 5 have been treated.

It is anticipated that the program will last for approximately two weeks. A Public Service Announcement will continue to be issued daily providing information on what treed areas of the city will be sprayed that night. This announcement will also be posted on the Insect Control [website](#) at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

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.

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

Homeowners are reminded to remove tree bands

Homeowners are reminded to remove bands on their trees as they serve no useful purpose now since the adult moths have already laid their eggs. Leaving the bands on the tree over the summer will cause more damage to the tree now as the bands will encourage rotting on the bark, thereby negatively affecting the health of the tree.

General Information

Property owners not wanting insecticides applied on or adjacent to their principle residence may register as "Anti-Pesticide Registrants" for both cankerworm and/or adult nuisance mosquito control programs. 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. Please remember a minimum 72-hour turnaround time is required for processing.

Citizens may register for email notification regarding cankerworm and/or adult nuisance mosquito control programs by visiting our [website](#). They can also register for telephone notification by calling 311 and leaving 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.