



Washington State Department of Agriculture

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Gypsy moth treatments at Tukwila expected to begin this week

OLYMPIA - The [Washington State Department of Agriculture \(WSDA\)](#) announced today gypsy moth caterpillar eradication treatments will begin this week in Tukwila, most likely on May 1. The infestation of [European gypsy moth](#) is centered at Interurban Avenue South and South 149th Street.

WSDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture jointly approved the project, after a 30-day review period on two [environmental documents](#).

The exact date of the first treatment depends on larval development, leaf development and weather conditions. Three to five treatments will be conducted at the 10.5-acre site, three to 14 days apart. Operators will use ground equipment to apply a biological insecticide to trees, shrubs and other foliage that may harbor tiny gypsy moth caterpillars.

Later in July, the eradication effort will continue with an aircraft flyover to treat a surrounding 180-acre site with an agent (disparlure) that disrupts mating behavior in adult gypsy moths. The aircraft will release tiny pheromone-impregnated flakes to disrupt mating, a strategy that has been used in several other states.

Gypsy moth is a destructive forest pest and can also affect urban landscapes when the caterpillars feed on plants, shrubs and trees, including maple, alder, apple and poplar.

Visit www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/InsectPests/GypsyMoth/ for more information or call the WSDA gypsy moth toll-free hotline at 1-800-443-6684.

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