



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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State gypsy moth treatments at South Hill Mall in Puyallup to begin in late April, early May

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) announced today gypsy moth caterpillar eradication treatments at the South Hill Mall in Puyallup will begin in late April or early May. Three to five treatments will be conducted at the 29-acre site. Treatments will be administered about a week apart.

The exact date of the first treatment depends on larval development, leaf development and weather. The treatments, consisting of a biological insecticide (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* or Btk), will be applied with ground equipment. Treatments will be conducted late at night to minimize disruptions to business activities.

The vegetation to be treated is located in or near the northwest corner of the South Hill Mall parking lot. No residences are located in the treatment zone.

WSDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture jointly approved the treatment on April 7. Approval came after a 30-day review period on two environmental documents expired with no public comments received. The documents were posted to the WSDA website and also were available at the Washington State Library in Tumwater and the city library in Puyallup.

State entomologists detected the infestation at the South Hill Mall this past summer. Of the 13 gypsy moths caught in Washington's summer trapping program, seven were caught near the mall.

Gypsy moth is a destructive plant pest that has been detected in Washington state every year since 1977. Permanent populations have not been established here because of WSDA's aggressive trapping and eradication programs.

For more information on the treatments, call the WSDA toll-free hotline (1-800-443-6684), or visit the agency gypsy moth website at <http://www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/InsectPests/GypsyMoth>.

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