



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: April 23, 2012 (12-06)  
Contact: Mike Louisell (360) 902-1813

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560  
Visit our Web site at: [agr.wa.gov](http://agr.wa.gov)  
[Subscribe or unsubscribe to WSDA news releases](#)

## **Gypsy moth treatments at Puyallup, Eatonville to begin in late April, early May**

**OLYMPIA** – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) announced today gypsy moth caterpillar eradication treatments will begin in late April or early May for two projects—one at the South Hill Mall in Puyallup and the other at a neighborhood in Eatonville.

The two proposals were announced last December. WSDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture jointly approved both projects on April 17. Approval came after a 30-day review period on two environmental documents expired with no public comments received.

The exact date of the first treatment depends on larval development, leaf development and weather conditions. Three to five treatments will be conducted at each site, three to 14 days apart. Operators will use ground equipment to spray a biological insecticide (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* or Btk), contacting trees, shrubs and other foliage that may harbor tiny gypsy moth caterpillars.

The vegetation to be treated in Puyallup involves a 43-acre site centered on the west side of the South Hill Mall parking lot. The treatments are to begin before dawn, long before stores open. No residences are located in the treatment zone. The area is expanded from a 29-acre site treated at the shopping mall last spring.

The Eatonville project involves treating 13 acres in a residential area at Eatonville Highway and Hilligoss Lane, a new gypsy moth introduction. Residents are aware of the project and will be notified prior to each treatment.

During the most recent summer trapping program, staff found evidence of reproducing populations of gypsy moth at both sites. Moths were caught in pheromone-baited traps and entomologists found additional life stages, evidence of gypsy moth reproduction.

Gypsy moth is a destructive plant pest that devours the leaves of more than 500 species of trees and shrubs, including oak, birch, apple and poplar trees. Permanent populations have not been established here because of WSDA's aggressive trapping, eradication and follow-up surveillance efforts.

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

###

WSDA is on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)