



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: July 24, 2008
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Annual hunt for gypsy moths under way! 5,500 traps placed in King County

OLYMPIA – For 35 years the Washington State Department of Agriculture has kept the gypsy moth out of Washington. With the help of nearly 30 seasonal gypsy moth trappers, officials hope that record continues.

In June 2008, WSDA began its annual gypsy moth summer trapping program, placing more than 23,000 small, tent-shaped cardboard traps throughout the state to identify any new introductions of the destructive pest. Traps are being checked every two to three weeks this summer, and will be taken down in September.

If multiple catches are made in an area over two years or other evidence of gypsy moth activity is noted, an eradication treatment in the area may occur the following spring.

Trappers have hung 5,500 traps in King County, the most of any county in the state. Areas of the county being heavily trapped because of past gypsy moth activity or the threat of the more destructive Asian gypsy moth are:

- The Port of Seattle because of the threat of Asian gypsy moths coming off foreign ships at the port
- In north Seattle near the intersection of Roosevelt Way NE and NE 88th St.
- North of Bitter Lake in Seattle near the intersection of N. 137th St. and Winegard Ct. N.
- In Bellevue near the intersection of Lakemont Blvd. SE and Village Park Dr.
- East of Totem Lake in Kirkland near the intersection of Slater Ave. NE and NE 123rd St.
- Northwest of Carnation near the intersection of Snoqualmie Valley Rd. NE and Ames Lake Carnation Rd. NE
- Between Redmond and Carnation near the intersection of NE 64th St. and 224th Ave. NE
- In Kent near the intersection of Kent-Des Moines Road S. and the West Valley Highway
- In Auburn in the parking lot of the Emerald Downs race track
- In Federal Way near the intersection of 298th St. S. and 33rd Ave. S.

Tracy Shirek, trapping coordinator for King County, is confident her trappers will spot any new introductions. “We’re working hard,” Shirek said. “We want to identify infestations when they’re small and then eradicate them. We want to keep Washington the Evergreen State.”

The gypsy moth is one of the worst forest pests ever brought to the U.S. In its caterpillar form, the pest attacks more than 500 species of trees and shrubs, causing millions of dollars of environmental and economic damage across the country each year. The moth is now permanently established in 19 states in the east and upper Midwest. Last summer alone, gypsy moth larvae defoliated more than a million acres of trees in the U.S.

MORE

Annual hunt for gypsy moths under way—Page 2 of 2
July 24 2008

The number of traps to be placed in each county are: King, 5,500; Pierce, 2,000; Snohomish, 1,500; Thurston, 1,200; Clark, 1,100; Lewis, 1,000; Clallam, Cowlitz, and Grays Harbor, 900; Kitsap and San Juan, 850; Whatcom, 800; Skagit, 750; Jefferson, 700; Mason, 600; Island and Pacific, 500; Okanogan and Spokane, 300; Benton and Klickitat, 250; Chelan and Grant, 200; Yakima, 175; Pend Oreille and Skamania, 150; Lincoln, Kittitas, and Stevens, 100; Douglas and Wahkiakum, 75; Franklin and Whitman, 50; and Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, and Walla Walla, 25.

For more information on Washington's gypsy moth control program, call the gypsy moth hotline at (800) 443-6684.

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