



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GYPSEY MOTH MATING DISRUPTION TREATMENTS TO BEGIN IN SOUTHERN OHIO

Hocking, Jackson, Pickaway and Vinton counties to receive treatment

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (May 17, 2012) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture will begin aerial treatments designed to disrupt gypsy moth mating on 59,652 acres in Hocking, Jackson, Pickaway and Vinton counties.

A yellow crop duster will fly 100 feet above the tree tops to apply the treatment. Weather permitting, treatments will begin in southern Ohio on May 29th and will continue north with an estimated completion date of June 1st.

In all counties receiving treatment, the department will use a single application of the product Disrupt II. This product does not kill the moth, but it disrupts the mating process by confusing the male as it searches for a female mate. Disrupt II is not harmful to birds, plants, pets or humans.

Pre-recorded daily updates about planned treatment blocks are available to citizens by calling 614-387-0907 or 800-282-1955 ext.37, after 5 p.m.

The gypsy moth is a non-native, invasive species that advanced into Ohio from Pennsylvania and Michigan during the past several years. In its caterpillar stage, it feeds on the leaves of more than 300 different trees and shrubs and is especially fond of oak. A healthy tree can usually withstand only two years of defoliation before it is permanently damaged or dies. To date, 51 of Ohio's 88 counties have established gypsy moth populations.

Treatment will take place across the state on a total of 62,308 acres in Allen, Clark, Hardin, Hocking, Jackson, Logan, Madison, Paulding, Pickaway and Vinton counties.

For more information on Disrupt II, maps of the application areas or general information about the gypsy moth, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

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