



INFORMATION – COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 22, 2008

Insect Control Branch Activity Update

Winnipeg, MB- The Insect Control Branch is continuing its larviciding program in Winnipeg and the surrounding 10 km treatment area. The cooler temperatures and below normal precipitation continued to slow larval development and have enabled helicopter and ground crews to treat all standing water sites that have larvae. To date, the spring larviciding program has been successful in controlling the spring nuisance mosquitoes.

The AFA (Adulticiding Factor Analysis Guideline) continues to be low. Surveillance data indicates low to moderate levels of larvae in standing water sites. Trap counts have been zero since the monitoring of adult nuisance mosquitoes began May 1, 2008, using the New Jersey Light Traps. Over the next 7-10 days, the Insect Control Branch anticipates only a small emergence of spring nuisance mosquitoes. Trap count data can be viewed at the Insect Control website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

The Insect Control Branch is forecasting a significant cankerworm population in Winnipeg over the next few weeks which will likely have the potential to cause major defoliation of American Elms, Manitoba Maple and Ash trees in many parts of the City where there are large stands of these trees. These populations generally follow a natural five to seven year cycle and have been building up their populations over the past couple of years. Based on previous historical data, the Branch anticipates that this may be the peak of this cycle.

Current surveillance data indicates that cankerworm populations will be similar to the large populations the City experienced last year. This forecast is based on:

- Recent data collected from the spring adult female cankerworm moths which were captured on the tree bands.
- Data collected from the fall adult cankerworm female moths which laid their eggs in the fall of 2007.

Many citizens of Winnipeg banded their trees this season and this will certainly help to lessen the cankerworm population. Areas of the City which have been extensively banded should experience less defoliation than areas where banding was less prevalent.

The Branch is preparing for a cankerworm control program for boulevard trees and City parks. The appropriate time to treat trees is once the surveillance data shows that the larvae (worms) are actively feeding on the leaves.

Homeowners are reminded to remove bands on their trees as they serve no useful purpose now since the adult moths have already laid their eggs. Leaving the bands on the tree will cause more damage to the tree now as the bands will encourage rotting on the bark, thereby affecting the health of the tree.

Individuals who are opposed to the use of insecticides on or adjacent to their principle residence for the control of cankerworms may register their opposition in writing to the Insect Control Branch, 3 Grey St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2L 1V2 or by faxing it to 986-4868 or by registering online at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

Interested individuals may acquire more information by contacting the City's Bugline at 986-3210 Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by visiting the City's Insect Control website at Winnipeg.ca/bugline.

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Media inquiries may be directed to the City of Winnipeg Media Inquiry Line at (204) 986-6000 or via email at MediaInquiry@winnipeg.ca