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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OPEN HOUSES SCHEDULED TO EXPLAIN 2020 GYPSY MOTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

Open house presentations to cover spray treatments in northern Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Agriculture will hold nine open houses to explain the proposed gypsy moth treatment plans for northern Illinois.

The gypsy moth is a non-native pest that feasts on more than 250 species of trees and shrubs, but its preferred food source is oak leaves. Large populations are capable of stripping plants bare, leaving them vulnerable to secondary insect and disease attacks. Severe defoliation can also cause tree death.

Infested sites will be treated with applications of either BtK (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *Kurstaki*), a naturally-occurring bacteria used by gardeners as an environmentally-friendly alternative to chemical pesticides, or mating disruption (MD), a gypsy moth-specific pheromone that acts as a sexual attractant and prevents male gypsy moths from breeding. BtK is not harmful to people, pets or wildlife.

The BtK product is Valent Foray 48B – Organic which will be applied by helicopter in mid-May, with a second application within two weeks. The mating disruption product, Splat GM-Organic will be applied by airplane in late June.

The gypsy moth program is funded cooperatively through the U.S. Forest Service, Slow the Spread Foundation and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Illinois has been involved with the Slow the Spread Foundation since its inception in 2000.

The presentation schedule and map of treatment sites are available through the links below.

<https://www.facebook.com/GypsyMothIllinois/>

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Insects/Pests/Pages/gypsy-moth.aspx>

A list of the impacted sites and their scheduled treatments follows:

Spray Area	Product	Date	Time	Location	Address	Phone
Byron/Ogle County	Btk	24-Feb	3-6 pm	Byron Public Library	100 S Washington St, Byron, IL 61010	(815) 234-5107
Lockport/Will County	Splat MD	25-Feb	3-6 pm	White Oak Library District: Lockport Branch	121 E 8th St, Lockport, IL 60441	(815) 552-4250
Galena/JoDaviess County	Splat MD	26-Feb	3-6 pm	Galena Public Library	601 S Bench St, Galena, IL 61036	(815) 777-0200
Romeoville/Will County	Splat MD	27-Feb	3-6 pm	White Oak Library: Romeoville Branch	201 Normantown Rd, Romeoville, IL 60446	(815) 552-4200
Oswego/Kendall County	Splat MD	2-Mar	3-6 pm	Oswego Public Library	32 Jefferson St, Oswego, IL 60543	(630) 978-1205
New Lenox/Will County	Splat MD	3-Mar	3-6pm	New Lenox Public Library	120 Veterans Pkwy, New Lenox, IL 60451	(815) 485-2605
Morton/DuPage County	Btk	4-Mar	1-4 pm	Morton Arboretum	4100 IL-53, Lisle, IL 60532	(630) 968-0074
Orgeon/Ogle County	MD	5-Mar	3-6 pm	Oregon Public Library	300 Jefferson St, Oregon, IL 61061	(815) 732-2724
Plainfield/Will County	Btk	10-Mar	3-6 pm	Plainfield Public Library	15025 S Illinois St, Plainfield, IL 60544	(815) 436-6639

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