



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

March 16, 2012

FALL CANKERWORM TREATMENT NOTIFICATION DO NOT DISCARD

Dear Resident/Landowner:

The fall cankerworm, *Alsophila pometaria*, is a native insect found throughout much of North America. Outbreaks of this insect have been evident in Fairfax County since 1993. The caterpillar stage of this pest can defoliate trees and cause tree die back, decline, and/or mortality. To minimize tree mortality and caterpillar nuisance, the Fairfax County Forest Pest Program has developed a suppression program for the fall cankerworm. As part of the suppression program, Fairfax County will conduct spot treatment of severe infestations with the most environmentally sound insecticides available.

Severe infestations planned for ground treatment were identified by tree barrier banding techniques recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service and conducted by the Fairfax County Forest Pest Section Staff.

This letter is to notify you that due to very high levels of infestation, all or a portion of your property has been included in an area that is scheduled for ground treatment with Bt this spring.

For all property owners who have their properties rented, please notify your tenants of this important spray information.

ABOUT THE ACTUAL SPRAYING

Bt is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use in the suppression of the fall cankerworm caterpillar in forested, commercial, and residential areas. Bt is an abbreviation for the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which occurs naturally in the environment and is produced in a laboratory for use as an insecticide. After ingestion, Bt reacts with the fall cankerworm caterpillar's gut, paralyzing the digestive system. The feeding stops and the caterpillar dies within one week.

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Land Development Services, Urban Forest Management Division
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 518
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-5503
Phone 703-324-1770 • TTY 711 • FAX 703-803-7769



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Licensed, experienced applicators, under the supervision of County staff, will apply Bt to the treatment area beginning in late April or early May. Unpredictable weather conditions make it impossible for us to set the treatment dates at this time.

HOW TO GET MORE INFORMATION

For more information please call our office at (703) 324-5304 for assistance. Information will also be made available on the Fairfax County web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/canker4.htm>.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR PROPERTY SPRAYED

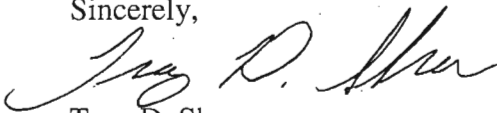
Participation in this program is voluntary. If you choose not to participate please notify, in writing, the Forest Pest Program Coordinator at the address listed below. Please mail your letter no later than April 9, 2012. Your property will be marked off and will not be treated. The Forest Pest Program Staff believe that Bt is one of the most environmentally sound insecticides available for the suppression of the fall cankerworm caterpillar.

**Forest Pest Program
12055 Government Center Parkway, suite 518
Fairfax, VA 22035**

The Fairfax County Forest Pest Program Coordinator will contact you by letter to confirm your non-participation after April 9.

Thank you for your cooperation and support of the Fairfax County Forest Pest Program.

Sincerely,



Troy D. Shaw
Coordinator
Forest Pest Program
(703) 324-5304