

## Gypsy Moth Aerial Spray 2009 City of Kentwood

### A Preliminary Overview

After months of planning, the aerial spray to combat the gypsy moth was completed on May 21, 2009. The aerial contractor was Mid-Michigan Helicopters Inc. of Greenville assisted for timing and weather conditions by the entomological field survey firm of Aquatic Consulting Services LLC. The aircraft loaded and flew from a nearby park in

Wyoming to keep ferry times and fuel use to a minimum.



Life stage and tree development timing was excellent with about half of the caterpillars in their second growth stage (instar) and actively feeding on the newly developing oak leaves. The bacterial pesticide was applied in a fine mist with good deposition throughout the canopy. Weather conditions during the spray were also good with clear skies

and cool conditions in the morning followed by warmer days so active feeding would take place. The material must be eaten by the insect to be effective.

The gypsy moth population appears to be heavy again this season with little winter mortality. Spot checks the day before spray showed several areas with heavy feeding. The accompanying photo was taken on May 20 in Burgis Avenue area. Feeding



damage was already evident on this red oak. Field surveys approximately three weeks after spray will determine the overall effectiveness of the effort.

ACS LLC May 27, 2009

# City of Kentwood Gypsy Moth Treatment Areas 2009

Shaded areas are scheduled for  
B.t. aerial spray in May 2009

