

Gypsy Moth Treatment

Westbrook Park Area, Kilworth – June 3, 2020

As you know, the area around Westbrook Park is unfortunately experiencing a gypsy moth infestation. This letter is to let you know what Middlesex Centre is doing about gypsy moths in the municipal woodlot near the park, and **to provide you with information about a flat-rate treatment price available to area residents** with Davey Tree.



Image Source: Ontario's Invading Species Program

Map of Gypsy Moth Area near Westbrook Park, Kilworth



What is Middlesex Centre doing about gypsy moths?

We are working with a local arborist, Davey Tree, to treat the municipal portion of the woodlot at Westbrook Park in Kilworth. The treatment will begin once the eggs hatch and the caterpillars climb to the top of the tree (in the canopy). This is the best management practice for treating heavily infected trees.

- **Treatment Period:** June 10, to June 17, 2020 (exact dates may vary depending on weather)
- **Area to be Treated:** The Middlesex Centre Treatment Area marked on the map above.
- **Product to be Used:** Davey Tree will be applying a biological insecticide called *Bacillus thuringiensis 'kurstaki'*, or Btk for short (more below).
- **Notification:** The area will be signed as per provincial requirements, and notice will be posted under “Public Notices” on the municipal website.

Questions

If you have questions regarding the municipality's response to gypsy moths, please contact Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services, Municipality of Middlesex Centre, at 519-666-0190 ext. 227 or mairs@middlesexcentre.on.ca.

What can homeowners do to control gypsy moths?

Homeowners are responsible for managing gypsy moths on their property.

As mentioned above, the municipality is working to treat the trees on municipal property in the Westbrook Park area. As this involves bringing in specialized equipment from out of the London area, we asked Davey Tree to provide a flat rate per household for treating individual properties in the heavily infested area near Westbrook Park.

Participating in this “bulk” treatment purchase is optional, but we hope that many of homeowners will consider the opportunity. The more homeowners that treat their trees, the better the outcome for all neighbouring properties.

If you prefer not to participate, you may want to try some general solutions listed on the municipal website (middlesexcentre.on.ca/articles/dealing-gypsy-moths).

Davey Tree's Gypsy Moth Treatment Program for Westbrook Park Area Homeowners

- Rear yard treatments on private properties: **\$385.00** per yard per application
- Cost includes all necessary notifications and signage, as well as all materials. Pursuant to regulations, Davey Tree will be posting a green label sign on the lawn prior to application, and will remove the signs after 48 hrs.

- If you are interested, please contact Davey Tree as soon as possible. Work will begin on the municipal woodlot on June 10, 2020.
- During the application, please ensure your windows are closed and pets and children remain indoors until 2 hours after application. Davey Tree's licensed technicians will knock on your door before the application takes place and will leave a completed service contract in your door or mailbox.
- **All bookings are to be made through Davey Tree.** The municipality is in no way responsible for booking, fees, or the outcome of the treatment on private property.
- For more information or to book, please contact:

Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada Ltd., Strathroy Office

Contact: Ryan Statham - Phone: 519-245-1019 - Email: ryan.statham@davey.com

Website: <https://www.daveytree.ca/local-offices/strathroy-tree-service/>

Information on Gypsy Moth Treatment, Btk

Bacillus thuringiensis 'kurstaki', (or Btk) is a bacterium found naturally in soils. It is used as a biological pest control agent to combat a variety of forest insect pests, including gypsy moth, spruce budworm and forest tent caterpillars.

Btk is applied to the leaves of affected trees while caterpillars are still immature. Once ingested, the bacterium disrupts the caterpillars' digestive system: they stop feeding within hours and die within two to five days.

Btk has very low residual qualities in the natural environment. Sunlight and fungi deteriorate the bio-pesticide within 1 to 4 days. Because Btk requires an alkaline environment in the gut in order to be effective, it does not have any detrimental effects to humans, birds, or bees. Btk will affect other caterpillar species (known as non-target species). Due to its low residual and the narrow spray window due to larval development, the non-target impact is expected to be low.

The public are unlikely to experience any symptoms if inadvertently exposed to Btk spray, and no special precautions are necessary or required. However, individuals who have concerns should take reasonable precautions to avoid exposure during a spray program in the same way they would avoid pollen or other airborne materials during days when air quality advisories are issued. They can also reduce exposure by staying indoors with windows and doors shut during the spray period if spraying is taking place in their area.

Sources: City of Hamilton Gypsy Moth Program, Health Canada Btk report (2009)