



April 16, 2025

Dear Ada Resident:

This letter is to inform you that in mid-May, Hamilton Helicopters Inc. will be spraying for spongy moths in targeted areas throughout the Township. Your property will be sprayed (see attached map). The Township will have 392 acres of property sprayed this year to help reduce defoliation of trees and shrubs by this invasive insect. The area identified for spraying was based on an egg mass survey completed in the fall/winter of 2024-25 by Aquatic Consulting Services.

Why is the Township Involved?

Theoretically, a property owner could hire a company to spray their individual parcel. However, sprayers typically require a minimum of 100 acres before they accept a job. Therefore, the Township has agreed to act as the "general contractor." This enables property owners with less than 100 acres to participate, and it also lowers the overall cost of the spray program. This will be the fourth year the Township has provided spray services.

How much will this cost me?

The Township is planning to use general fund dollars to fund the program this year due to the reduced acreage from last year and the overall community benefit. The Township has discussed implementing a special assessment for future years, but that will be evaluated on an annual basis. The cost for this year's program is \$80.85 per acre. A listing of all parcels impacted can be found at the Township website under "Services—Spongy Moth."

When will the spray be applied and is it safe?

Spraying will most likely occur in mid-May, depending on caterpillar & leaf development, and the weather. Updates will be posted on the Township website. The product that is sprayed is called Btk. Btk, short for *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, is a bacterium found naturally on leaves and in the soil. These bacteria act as tiny factories that produce protein crystals that kill specific groups of insects. Btk is effective only on butterfly or moth caterpillars that consume a toxic dose of the btk during its 10-14 day active phase. Additional information can be found on the website.

Will we need to spray in subsequent years?

This will be the Township's fourth year of spraying. After our spraying, the Township will complete an egg mass survey next fall to determine the need for spraying the following year.

Please visit the Ada Township website (www.adatownshipmi.com) for more information on the spraying program. This information can be found under the "Services – Spongy (Gypsy) Moth" drop down. We will also post the spray date on the website when it is finalized and the Township Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AdaVillage).

If you have any questions, please contact me at 616-676-9191 or via email at jsuchy@adatownshipmi.com.

Thank you,

Julius Suchy
Township Manager

Ada Township Spongy Moth Report Map 2025

