West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA)
LYMANTRIA DISPAR (GYPSY MOTH) COOPERATIVE SUPPRESSION PROGRAM
Egg Mass Survey Request Application ________________________ COUNTY

Instructions: Proposed spray blocks must be a minimum of 50 contiguous acres. Attach a copy of a 7.5- minute topographic map with the property boundary clearly marked on it. A plat map should be provided to verify boundaries. A Farm Service Agency aerial photo can be used to mark fields that need omitted. An ESRI shape file, projected in UTM Zone 17, NAD 83 Datum, can be provided by the forest industry.

A non-refundable survey deposit of a $1.00 per acre is required to participate ($500 maximum). Use one application for each separate block of 50 acres or more.

Fill out the information below and on reverse and return, along with your property boundary map and your $1.00 per acre deposit to: West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Plant Industries Division, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25305

Applicant Information

Applicants Name ____________________________

Development or Business Name ____________________________

Applicant’s Mailing Address ____________________________

Home Phone (____) ____________________________

Work Phone (____) ____________________________

City ____________________________ State ____________________________ Zip ____________________________

Cell Phone (____) ____________________________ Fax (____) ____________________________

E-mail address ______________________________________________________________________

Local Contact Information

Local Contact for Absentee Landowner ____________________________

Home Phone (____) ____________________________

Work Phone (____) ____________________________

Local Contact’s Mailing Address ____________________________

Cell Phone (____) ____________________________ Fax (____) ____________________________

City ____________________________ State ____________________________ Zip ____________________________

E-mail address ______________________________________________________________________

Remarks __________________________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

APPLICANT, PLEASE COMPLETE SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON REVERSE:

mailing address: 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305-0009
physical address: 217 Gus R. Douglass Lane, Charleston, WV 25312
telephone: 304-558-3550 • fax: 304-558-2203

www.agriculture.wv.gov

In accordance with federal and state laws, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is prohibited from discrimination in its programs and services on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, disability (including blindness), medical condition, marital status, veteran status, and political affiliation.
### Applicant Site Specific Information

**General Property Location**
(e.g.) 4 miles South of New Creek on Rt. 220 – Turn left on Valley View Road - 500 feet on right

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1. Total block acres
2. Total forested acres
3. Total exclusion acres
4. Total spray acres
   (Exclusion minimum is 10 acres)

5. Have you applied for treatment through the WVDA in the past? □ Yes □ No. □ Yes □ No. Last year applied

6. If yes, do you wish to use the same property boundaries as previously submitted? □ Yes □ No

7. Was your property treated last year? □ Yes □ No. □ Yes □ No. Spray material used

8. Percentage of preferred host trees in proposed treatment block %
   e.g. % of oak, birch, alder, apple, aspen and basswood on property

9. Percent forest canopy cover in proposed treatment block %

10. Forest type is (check one) □ Wooded, no permanent residences
    □ Wooded residential, permanent residences
    □ Wooded recreational, e.g. state park, state forest, resorts

11. Number of property owners included in proposed spray block

12. Is property gated? □ Yes □ No. Combination Lock # ________ Please note that keys must be provided with this application unless the gate will be left unlocked when contacted by the WVDA.

13. Is any portion of the property restricted? □ Yes □ No. If yes explain

14. Check or list any potential hazards such as. □ High antennas or towers
    □ High power lines
    □ Open bodies of water.
    □ Other

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**Official use only**

- Arcview # ________ - ________ - ________ Egg Masses per Acre ________
- Date Surveyed ________ / ________ / ________ Surveys Completed ________ Blow-in-Potential □ yes □ no
- Surveyed by: ____________________________ Qualify for Treatment □ yes □ no
- Presence of Virus □ yes □ no    Presence of Fungus □ yes □ no    EM Size □ dime □ nickel □ quarter
- Quad 1 ________ Quad 2 ________ Quad 3 ________ Quad 4 ________

Revision_4.25.22
The Cooperative State-County-Landowner
Lymantria dispar Suppression Program
In West Virginia

West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Division of Forestry
West Virginia County Commissions
West Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service
The Lymantria dispar is the most serious insect pest ever to invade West Virginia's forests. The first adult male Lymantria dispar were trapped in West Virginia in 1972. The first caterpillars were found in 1978. Since then this destructive insect has continued to spread, while funding to combat the pest has been difficult to maintain. These circumstances created the need for a Lymantria dispar cooperative suppression program for landowners in the generally infested areas in West Virginia. This brochure is designed to answer some commonly asked questions and provide information about the cooperative suppression program.

**HOW SERIOUS IS THE Lymantria dispar PROBLEM?**

Severe economic loss of valuable timber, significant impact on outdoor recreational opportunities in heavily infested areas, adverse effects on some forms of wildlife through food loss and changes in habitat, and destruction of the aesthetic beauty of our forested communities are expected results of the onslaught of the Lymantria dispar. In addition, a health problem, in the form of an allergic reaction, may occur in a few people when they come in contact with large numbers of Lymantria dispar caterpillars.

Repeated heavy defoliation by Lymantria dispar kills trees. Spruce, pine and hemlocks die after a single heavy defoliation. Hardwood tree mortality, after two successive years of defoliation, can reach as high as 80%. The forest trees preferred by this insect are oaks, and the oak-hickory type makes up about 77% of West Virginia's woodlands.

Studies by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and West Virginia Division of Forestry confirm that as much as 25 percent mortality after one year of heavy defoliation could be expected in timber stands if Lymantria dispar populations are left untreated.

**WHERE IS THE Lymantria dispar INFECTION CURRENTLY?**

West Virginia Counties where Lymantria dispar is known to occur are regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture Lymantria dispar Quarantine (7CFR 301.45) and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Lymantria dispar Quarantine include: Barbour, Berkeley, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood and Wyoming Counties.

**WHAT IS THE Lymantria dispar COOPERATIVE SUPPRESSION PROGRAM?**

It is a cooperative regional suppression program between landowners, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, West Virginia Division of Forestry, local county commissions, the West Virginia University (WVU) Cooperative Extension Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA-FS). Aerial treatments will be done in the generally infested area on a demand basis only to minimize the damage to forests and reduce the impact of the Lymantria dispar in future years. Treatments will not be done with the intent of eradicating the pest. Lymantria dispar treatments available at this time are Bacillus thuringiensis (Btk) or Mimic® (Tebufenozide). The landowner may request the material they prefer. However, final approval for use will depend on site evaluation by the WVDA. The site evaluation will determine if an area meets criteria set forth on the pesticide label and other possible restrictions.

**HOW DO I KNOW IF MY LAND HAS A Lymantria dispar PROBLEM AND I NEED TO PARTICIPATE?**

The WVDA will conduct an egg mass survey on your property upon request and provide other information about the Lymantria dispar population in your area.

Generally, forest land being managed for timber should have a concentration of 500 egg masses per acre to be considered for treatment. However, USDA-FS research indicates it should be possible to go as high as 1,000 - 1,200 egg masses per acre and still obtain adequate timber management protection. Other factors, principally whether the population is building or declining, and the size of the egg masses must be taken into consideration before the final decision concerning treatment is made.

Historically, there have been a number of areas that did not conform to the above general guidelines and yet large areas were defoliated where egg mass counts were below 500 egg masses per acre. This simply
serves to demonstrate the unpredictability of this insect when we try to apply these general guidelines across the entire infested area.

In wooded developments or residential areas where the nuisance factor of the insect is significant, consideration will be given to treating down to 500 egg masses per acre. Consideration will also be given to treating these areas when the potential for large numbers of wind-blown caterpillars exists. Potential for wind-blown caterpillars is defined as a count greater than 1,000 egg masses per acre within 1 mile of the proposed treatment block. There is a higher risk of this happening when high egg mass densities occur at higher elevations or to the south and west of proposed treatment blocks.

Land proposed for treatment should not pose a serious safety risk to aerial spraying. If electrical transmission lines, communication towers, etc. present a hazard, spray blocks may have to be modified or dropped. Spray blocks must contain a minimum of 50 contiguous acres of trees with no omits. This minimum acreage is necessary to maintain the current low cost of the Program. Adjacent property owners should go together to meet this minimum requirement, as well as to derive maximum benefit from the treatment program. No billing will be made, or egg mass surveys conducted on blocks less than 50 acres. Landowners and housing developments must sign up as a single unit on one application, with a single coordinator, to form spray blocks with the minimum of 50 acres. Blocks of less than 100 acres can have no more than 25 acres of exclusion or non-spray area. The minimum exclusion size is 10 acres.

**HOW CAN I SIGN UP?**

Application forms and brochures are available at the WVDA’s Plant Industries Division website at: [https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/plant-industries/forest-health-protection/](https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/plant-industries/forest-health-protection/), your local WVU Extension offices, and at WVDA field offices in Charleston (304-558-2212) and New Creek (304-788-1066), A survey deposit of $1.00 per acre must be submitted with the application. The application and survey deposit should be submitted no later than the end of August. If you need any assistance in marking the boundaries of your land, contact your local WVDA Forest Health Protection Specialist to arrange an appointment. The property owner is responsible for providing an original 7.5-minute topographic map with the property boundary marked on it, or an ESRI shape file projected in UTM Zone 17-NAD 83. A WVDA Forest Health Protection Specialist will visit your proposed treatment site to make a determination as to whether or not it qualifies. You will be notified by mail by December 1st if you qualify for participation in the suppression program based on the Lymantria dispar population density and site quality. The area selected for treatment will be squared off to establish a manageable treatment block, which will allow for the most effective aerial treatment. Some of your land may not be treated, after the boundary is delineated and the area surveyed.

*Keys or combinations for locks, must be provided with the application at the time of signup in order that the egg mass survey evaluation can be completed.*

*Your final decision to participate in the spring treatment program must be confirmed by signing a contract and receipt of all required deposits by the WVDA.*

*Your application and deposit (made out to WVDA) should be mailed to:*  
West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
Plant Industries Division  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25305

**HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?**

Treatment costs vary from year to year depending on the aerial contract cost (ie. fuel, pesticide, and spray application). Contact your local WVDA representative for the previous year’s cost and the current year’s estimated cost.

The non-refundable $1.00 per acre survey deposit will be applied to treatment costs if your lands qualify. There is a maximum $500.00 deposit per landowner.
The WVDA has received cost sharing dollars in the past that paid 30 to 50 percent of the actual treatment cost. If cost share funds should happen to not be available, due to the lack of a sufficient U.S. congressional budget allocation, landowners should be prepared to pay the total cost of aerial application and pesticide. The WVDA would still contract for the aerial application and pesticide and should be able to obtain a less expensive cost than private landowners working on their own.

**WHAT ABOUT PUBLIC FUNDS FOR *Lymantria dispar* SUPPRESSION? HOW IS IT DECIDED WHICH LAND WILL BE SPRAYED USING THESE FUNDS AND WHICH LAND WILL NOT?**

The WVDA has two objectives in its *Lymantria dispar* program; first, to minimize the spread of the pest into non-infested areas of the state and, second, to suppress *Lymantria dispar* populations in infested areas to limit, as much as possible, defoliation and tree mortality. Any state funds that become available will be used first to treat isolated infestations of the moth, which may occur outside the normal pattern of infestation, and low-density populations on the fringe of the main infestation. If no such infestations or populations exist in a particular year, any available state funds will be used across the board to reduce the landowner share of the cost of the cooperative suppression program.

If any public money is appropriated to the WVDA to treat infested State-owned lands, it will be used for that purpose.

**IS SPRAYING AN EFFECTIVE OPTION?**

Yes. Carefully selected treatment materials are the most effective method in preventing defoliation and the rapid spread of this destructive insect. The principal treatment materials used in the WVDA program are:

**Btk (Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki)**

Btk is a bacterium commonly found in forest soils worldwide. It has become one of the most valuable biological pest management tools for a variety of agricultural, forestry, and urban pests. While it is highly toxic to target pests, it is very safe in regard to humans and animals. For example, different formulations of the same biopesticide are labeled to be applied to organic grains such as shelled corn and soybeans during storage and/or to organic bagged grains (popcorn) to prevent Indian meal moth.

**Mimic® (Tebufenozide)**

Tebufenozide is a pesticide in the class of insect growth regulators. This means that, once exposed to tebufenozide, caterpillars are unable to successfully molt and grow. This prevents them from reaching maturity and reproducing. Tebufenozide may be applied by air or ground. It is successful on all population densities.

**HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

It is not possible to include answers to all questions in this brochure. For more information on the WVDA *Lymantria dispar* treatment program, contact WVDA Assistant Director, Quentin "Butch" Sayers or *Lymantria dispar* Program Coordinator, G. Scott Hoffman at 304-788-1066. Additional *Lymantria dispar* program information and assistance may also be obtained through your local WVDA offices located at: Charleston (304) 558-2212, and New Creek (304) 788-1066 or your local county extension agent.