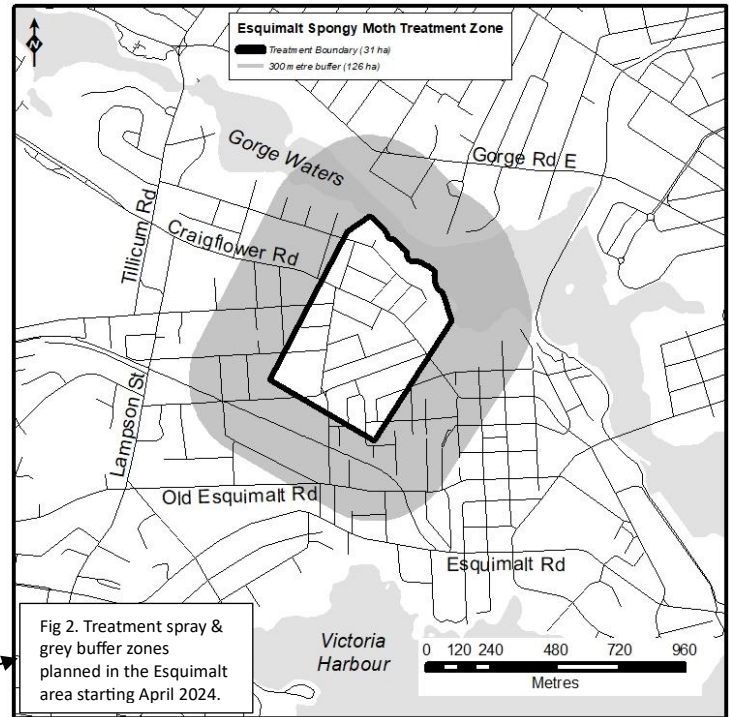




URGENT INFORMATION v18

Spongy (Gypsy) Moth



URGENT!! Did you know that aerial bacterial insecticide (Btk) spraying is planned starting in April? Health Canada incident reports show harms to people from Btk spray.

LOCAL SPRAY PLANNED

The Ministry of Forests plans to conduct multiple aerial sprays of 31 ha (plus 126 ha buffer zone) in the Esquimalt area, with an insecticide called Foray 48B containing 12.65% bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki strain ABTS-351* (Btk) and 87.35% corporate protected ingredients. In Greater Victoria, additional spraying of 120 ha (plus 318 ha buffer zone) in the Gorge-Tillicum area and 430 ha (plus 714 ha buffer zone) in the Belmont area are planned for spraying. **These three areas in Greater Victoria totaling 1700+ ha spraying (spray + buffer zone) is planned due to a perceived moth infestation concern after reporting the capture of only 40 spongy (gypsy) moths in 2023** in the Greater Victoria area by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (see Fig. 1). Three spray dates are planned to occur between April 1st to June 30th, 2024. Actual dates depend on weather with very little notice. Aerial spraying occurs at a maximum of 150 feet above ground between sunrise to 7:30 a.m. and 7-10 days apart. Historic air application costs are shown to be between \$170K to \$320K in a single spring spray program in each of the planned BC communities.

HUMAN HEALTH CONCERNS

Foray 48B has been documented to cause significant respiratory, vision, cardiac, neurological, gastrointestinal and skin reactions in Health Canada incident reports, as well as social media. At an open house event with the *BC Spongy Moth Technical Advisory Committee*, and the Ministry of Forests, they acknowledged that people have reported sickness and adverse reactions after spraying. There is no clear injury reporting system, thus only a fraction of symptoms is accurately reported and documented.

Notably, as quoted in the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), *“Pre-treatment with an influenza virus substantially increased mortality in mice exposed to various doses of Btk. This effect raises concern about the susceptibility of individuals who have influenza or other viral respiratory infections to severe adverse responses to Btk exposure”.* (USDA pg.23 - xiii)

Foray 48B has been banned due to health risks in Norway and Denmark. Also, France’s food safety agency (ANSES) has identified Btk as the second leading cause of food borne illness. Most European countries do not allow aerial spray.

Quote from [Pubmed](#) : *“The present study strongly indicates that residues of B. thuringiensis-based insecticides can be found on fresh fruits and vegetables and that these are **potentially enterotoxigenic**”.* *Enterotoxigenic means a toxin produced by bacteria that is specific for intestinal cells; causes vomiting and diarrhea associated with food poisoning.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Spongy moth only affects deciduous leaves from specific trees which are **already stressed, diseased and dying**. Healthy, hardy trees can withstand an attack and even endure a gypsy moth infestation, so the best prevention is taking appropriate care of your trees (with water and pruning). There is no value to massive spray zones which have been proven harmful to the environment and various species.

Foray 48B impacts non-target species of moths (promethea, cinnabar), butterflies (endangered monarch, swallowtail), earthworms, bees, birds (spotted towhee), and water species. Affected targeted, as well as non-targeted, insects are all important food sources for many land and water organisms within an ecosystem. Once a system, or portion of its contents is off balance, it creates massive negative ripple effects. At the application rates used to control gypsy moth populations, mortality rates among the sensitive terrestrial insects are likely to range from approximately **80% to 94% or more** (USDA pg. 20-x).

The Foray 48B Material Safety Data Sheet MSDS (see Table 1) includes an environmental precaution to “keep out of drains, sewers, ditches, and waterways.” Aerial spraying has been recorded to have a drift fallout anywhere from 3 km and further from the spray zone, and affects all environments in that path.

Homes, schools, gardens, parks, orchards, farms, businesses, wineries, bodies of water, streets and highways are situated within spray zones, affecting humans, pets, wildlife, birds, bees, water life and non-target insects.

FORAY 48B (Btk) *Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki* - live bacteria - strain ABTS-351 *other strains can and have been used

Original Bt bacteria was isolated from diseased silk worms and it is linked to food borne illnesses. It is “natural”, but yet, can be harmful.

Btk ('k' added) is based on Bt bacteria, but Btk is a commercial formulation bacteria that is genetically modified (GMO) and it is NOT naturally found in the environment nor in soil. (USDA pg.20 - x).

Foray 48B composition information states 12.65 % Btk and 87.35 % “Other” ingredients, meaning we are not allowed to know what specific compounds we are being exposed to, yet we are assured it is “safe”. Foray 48B coats and hardens on gardens, food, plants, schools, parks, playground equipment, trampolines, cars, pools, and all outdoor surfaces, with each application. *Strain can change, as the Health Canada product registration number 24977 states “ALL STRAINS”. The current strain used in 2024 is ABTS-351.

3. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS		
CAS #	Component Name	Percent
None	Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki Strain ABTS-351 fermentation solids	12.65
Trade Secret	Other ingredients	87.35

Solutions – If spongy moths are a problem, there are other options...

Aerial spraying is only one treatment option. Less harmful options include; keeping trees healthy, traps, manual egg removal, mass trapping, mating disruption, insect eating birds, trunk wrap, direct spray just affected trees, or tree host removal.

Actions - What You Can Do...

Salt Spring Island and Kitsilano said NO to aerial spraying and won. Act now! Send Emails, Join an Info Session, Sign Petition, and Share this:

1. Ministry of Forests, Tim Ebata: flnrgypsymothinfo@gov.bc.ca
2. Environment Climate office: ENVCLIA@gov.bc.ca
3. Local MLA(s): Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca and Grace.Lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
4. Local City Mayor/Council: Marianne Alto at malto@victoria.ca and mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca
5. Esquimalt First Nation: call (250) 381-7861 or contact Katie Hooper, Executive Director at katie@esquimaltnation.ca
6. Join an online info session with Q&A available for the public. Weekly Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. starting Tues April 16th, 2024, by zoom: <http://tinyurl.com/stopforay48Bspray>
7. Dr. Tynan, M.D. at CommunitiesUnitedForCleanAir@gmail.com to join efforts / ask questions / express concerns
8. Sign the Petition at [Change.ORG](https://change.org) – “Delay & Reconsider the Spongy (Gypsy) Moth Spraying in British Columbia”
9. If you are near a spray and have any adverse reaction during or after spray, seek medical attention and report it to a medical professional and here: <https://pest-control.canada.ca/public-engagement-portal/en/forms/voluntary-incident-report>

BC Groups involved to connect with: CallToActionCranbrook.com & CRECweb.com/pesticides

Join “Communities United for Clean Air (CUFCA)” @communitiesunitedforcleanair (IG/FB) & email them as above

References – all links below plus more & updates can be found at: <https://bcrising.ca/committee/natural-environment>

Permits and Maps where spraying will take place in BC communities soon: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/forest-health/invasive-forest-pests/spongy-moth/news>

Spongy Moth Detections in BC Communities: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/forest-health/invasive-forest-pests/spongy-moth/detection-history>

USDA - Btk research and testing (571 pages): <https://cms.agr.wa.gov/getmedia/563dd666-85bc-459e-a7e6-705a1d9cc801/finalsupplementaleisvolumeiii.pdf>

*If you feel spraying is ok because it's been occurring in alternating communities for years, you are encouraged to read the evidence provided stating many concerns & conflicting information, which has stopped the spray in many locations. Move beyond assumptions and relying on just information from organizations that benefit from these programs, who present the toxins as natural, safe and needed. Instead review evidence, consider personal harms, ask questions & decide.