



BERKS COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BERKS COUNTY GYPSY MOTH APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

Accepting Applications: Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) is now accepting applications from residents and community associations who would like to be considered for gypsy moth spraying. This is a state program, run by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) with cooperation from Berks County. Any person who would like to be evaluated for possible inclusion in this program **must** submit an application to:

BERKS COUNTY GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM
1238 County Welfare Road, Ste. 200
Leesport, PA 19533

Note: State and Federal funding for the 2018 gypsy moth program has not yet been announced. Berks County's program is contingent on receiving this funding for the program.

The Gypsy Moth Program guidelines require a **23-acre** minimum spray block size. We strongly encourage residents to speak with neighbors to ensure you meet the spray block size.

Individual applications must be submitted with a \$20.00 non-refundable application fee.
Community applications must be submitted with a \$75.00 non-refundable application fee.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

Applications are available on the web at www.berkscd.com, or they can be picked up at the Conservation District office at the above address.

Please note that submitting an application and fee only allows your property to be evaluated for the program. It does not guarantee that the property will be included in the program. Properties will be evaluated in the fall of 2017 and landowners will then be billed for a portion of the costs of spraying. Costs have not yet been determined. Costs will be based on the total acres included in the spray program AND the level of State and Federal funds allocated for the 2018 program. The estimated cost share rate for 2018 is **\$50/acre**.

Berks County 2018 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program

INDIVIDUAL Request for Treatment

Submission of this application form and fee does not obligate Berks County or the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct Gypsy moth spraying on any property. This application only allows your property to be evaluated by the Gypsy Moth Coordinator to determine if it meets state criteria for inclusion in the Program. If your property meets the Program criteria AND the Program is funded by the State/ Federal governments, you will be billed at a later date - cost to be determined.

Please read all information and fill out completely. Failure to complete all sections may result in exclusion from this Program.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address if different: _____ email: _____

*Are you in a Residential Community: Y / N Community Name: _____

** Important: If you live in a residential community, you should check to see if a community application and fee was/will be submitted by the community association before you submit this individual application.*

Tax Map Number: _____ Municipality: _____

(ex. 123.45-01-23) List only those properties with residential structures. We MUST have this information.

If you do not know your tax map number, visit <http://gis.co.berks.pa.us/parcelviewer/>- search using the location of the property.

The property you would like treated **must** meet the following criteria.

1. There must be a residence on the property.
2. Residence must be within 200 feet of the forest (not scattered trees or hedge rows)
3. Property must have 250 healthy (medium-large) gypsy moth egg masses per acre.

In Addition, your property **may not** qualify if any of the following exist:

1. Property is commercial
2. Adjacent properties are not participating
3. Property's tree species are not favored by gypsy moths.

IMPORTANT: Please provide **clear directions** to the property listed on this application.

Start at the nearest state road. If we cannot locate your home/property or cannot contact you by phone, your property will not be included in the spray program. _____

A \$20.00 non-refundable application fee payable to BCCD must be submitted with this form in order for the property to be considered for inclusion in a 2017 spray program IF FUNDED.

RETURN this form to the address below by **September 1, 2017** with the **\$20.00** non-refundable application fee payable to BCCD in order for your property to be considered for treatment. There will be no extension of the deadline.

Official Use: Date Rec'd _____ Qualified: _____ Reason: _____

Excel ID#: _____ Spray Block #: _____

The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, (DCNR) conducts an aerial gypsy moth suppression program for private residential landowners throughout PA. In order to assess the extent of the gypsy moth populations, as well as the amount of damage caused by them, Berks County is accepting "Request for Treatment" applications. This application is not a guarantee that the program will be funded and conducted by the State and Federal governments or that the property will meet the requirement for inclusion in the 2018 suppression program. Submission of this application only allows your property to be evaluated for possible inclusion in the Program. Once applications have been received, properties will be evaluated based on criteria set for by DCNR.

OBJECTIVE: DCNR's sole objective under this program is to protect residential forested area by limiting defoliation caused by gypsy moths to 30%. Due to the limitations of the insecticides available and the establishment of the gypsy moth throughout PA, it is not feasible or biologically possible to eradicate gypsy moths from any part of the Commonwealth. The nuisance problem caused by larval gypsy moth populations may not be reduced to the satisfaction of all landowners, even though the foliage protection objective is met.

INSECTICIDE: A biological insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) var. kurstaki*, is the spray material that DCNR uses on private residential lands under this program. DCNR selects the rate of application based upon gypsy moth population density and health. The highest rate of application is normally used on the heaviest, healthiest populations. Because Bt is a biological insecticide whose effectiveness can be affected by insect population levels and by weather conditions during and after application, DCNR does not guarantee the degree of control. A second biological insecticide, Gypcheck, may be used in cases where Bt is not appropriate because of the presence of species of concern that could be impacted.

QUALIFYING AREAS: Only forested private residential sites containing trees 25 feet or more in height qualify for this portion of the program. When viewed from above, sites must have a least 50% of the surface area covered by the crowns of these trees. 20% or more of this cover must be made up of tree species which are highly favored by the gypsy moth. Highly favored species include apple, aspen, basswood, beech, birch, boxelder, hawthorn, larch, oak, willow and witch hazel. The site must have a dwelling located within or no more than 200 feet from the forest. The spray block to protect this site will be designed to provide treatment to all forested areas within 500 feet of the dwelling and, in doing so, must include at least 23 acres of forest. The spray block will be designed in this manner to facilitate aerial spraying regardless of how large or small the landowner's property actually is. Spray blocks will NOT be custom designed to accommodate property boundary lines. Neighboring residential properties where all the landowners desire treatment will be combined into a single block whenever possible.

NON-QUALIFYING AREAS: Residential properties with only scattered ornamental trees and shrubs or any property with trees that are readily accessible to ground spray equipment do not qualify for this program. Also, areas that contain any non-target organisms that would be adversely affected by spraying or areas which are unsafe for aerial spraying because of obstructions or terrain will not be considered.

EGG MASS DENSITY: The proposed treatment areas must contain at least 250 healthy, current-season gypsy moth egg masses per acre or, if there are less than 250 egg masses per acre, there must be a reasonable expectation that high numbers of gypsy moth larvae will be blown into the area next spring. Areas that have very small egg masses (less than dime size), regardless of the number, often do not qualify for the program because the gypsy moth population will most likely succumb to natural mortality agents shortly after they emerge in the spring.

PROPERTY EVALUATIONS will begin as soon as egg masses have been laid on the trees, typically in August. The length of time needed to assess every property will be determined by the number of applications received by Berks County. Berks County Conservation District will be completing the field evaluations for the Berks County Gypsy Moth Program. Once all properties are evaluated, property owners will be informed of eligibility. If your property is included in the 2018 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program, you will be required to pay a portion of the spraying costs. Cost to property owners will be determined in the fall of 2017. Aerial spraying generally takes place between April and June.

