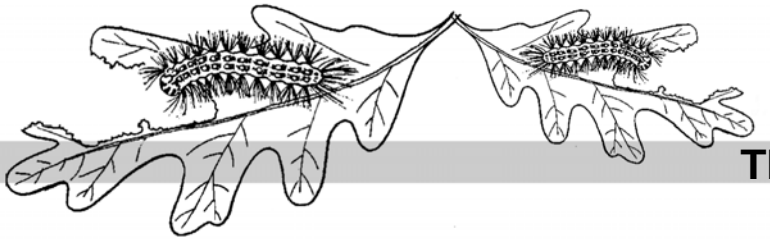
Wisconsin Cooperative Gypsy Moth Program **fast facts**



TREATMENT: GYPCHEK

Type of product	• Viral insecticide • Manufactured by the US Forest Service and used by government agencies
Active ingredient	• Gypsy moth nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV) • Infects only gypsy moth caterpillars • This virus naturally occurs wherever gypsy moth is present
How Gypchek works	• The virus is ingested when caterpillars feed • Kills the caterpillar by destroying its internal organs • Dead and dying caterpillars become soft and limp, which is why the viral disease is known as "wilt" • Approximately 75% of caterpillars become infected soon after spraying and die within 10-14 days • A second wave of caterpillar death occurs when dead caterpillars release additional virus particles that infect other caterpillars
How Gypchek is made	• Many caterpillars are reared in a laboratory and infected with the virus • Dead and diseased caterpillars are processed into a gray powder that contains virus particles and some fine caterpillar body parts • The powder is filtered to remove as many caterpillar hairs as possible • Between 500 and 1,000 caterpillars are needed to produce enough Gypchek to treat one acre
Application method	• Gypchek is mixed with a non-toxic liquid carrier and then applied at a rate of approximately one gallon per acre using low-flying aircraft • One application around mid May in southern WI, later farther north • Total virus levels are a fraction of what would be present at the end of a gypsy moth outbreak
Application timing	• Gypchek is highly effective against small gypsy moth caterpillars • Usually applied when the caterpillars have hatched but have not yet molted
Spraying Program	The current year's spray program information, including maps of the proposed spray sites, will be available online starting in early February at the website below. Information is also available by phone or by emailing dnrfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov.
Health effects	• NPV only infects gypsy moth and is unlikely to cause adverse health reactions in people • Caterpillar hairs can cause skin rashes and allergic reactions, so the potential for health effects is much greater if gypsy moth outbreaks are not controlled than is the risk from the small amount of caterpillar hairs in Gypchek
Effects on endangered butterflies	• The virus in Gypchek does not infect the caterpillars of endangered species such as Karner blue butterfly

For more information, call 1-800-642-MOTH

or visit Wisconsin Gypsy Moth on the Web at http://gypsymoth.wi.gov