



# Forest Tent Caterpillar Egg Mass Survey Report

Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Your address

Town etc

Telephone: (802) xxx-xxxx

E-mail: [xxxxx@state.vt.us](mailto:xxxxx@state.vt.us)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sugarbush Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Survey \_\_\_\_\_

Bush # (if more than one) \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Surveyed by \_\_\_\_\_

# of Points \_\_\_\_\_ % New Egg Masses \_\_\_\_\_ Average # New Egg Masses/10 Branches \_\_\_\_\_

Survey method predicts: \_\_\_ Defoliation \_\_\_ No defoliation \_\_\_ No prediction

Comments:

The information below may help you make a decision about participating in the 2007 aerial spray program. We also encourage you to contact us if you have questions. At this time, our records will indicate that you are:

<input type="checkbox"/> Interested in participating in the aerial spray program. We will contact you when more details are available.	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure, or not interested in participating in the aerial spray program. <u>You must contact us before March 1<sup>st</sup></u> to be included in the program.
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Although these survey results indicate whether or not the method predicts defoliation, we know predictions can be wrong. Factors not taken into account include young caterpillars blowing in from nearby or dying naturally before defoliation.

Healthy maples can tolerate several years of defoliation, especially on nutrient-rich soils. The amount of branch dieback and rate of taphole closure are good indicators of tree health. With each additional defoliation, the risk of dieback and mortality increases. Unpredictable future stresses, like drought or cold temperatures, could set decline in motion.

Some defoliation will occur in most sugarbushes before they are sprayed. The insecticide, *B.t.* must be eaten, so it can't be sprayed until leaves have expanded. Caterpillars hatch at budbreak, and will already have done some feeding. They feed in groups, so this can be quite noticeable on scattered trees. Further defoliation can occur if spraying is delayed by weather or operational constraints.

Some things to consider in deciding whether or not to participate in the aerial spray program:

- 2007 spray blocks will need to be more-or-less rectangular, actively tapped, and at least 10 acres.
- No cost share is expected in 2007. Cost won't be set until bids are received, but is likely to be \$15-30/acre.
- Landowners will be required to notify abutting landowners and sign a contract with the State of Vermont.
- Permit constraints may require unsprayed buffers around wells and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Foray, the *B.t.* insecticide we have been using, is not certified organic at this time.
- Sugarbushes may need to be sprayed in successive years.
- The deadline to be included in the program is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

<b>For more information contact the number above or:</b>	Windsor & Windham Counties..... Springfield (802) 885-8855
	Bennington & Rutland Counties..... Rutland (802) 786-3851
	Addison, Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties.. Essex Junction (802) 879-6565
	Orange & Washington Counties..... Barre (802) 476-0170
	Lamoille & Washington Counties..... Morrisville (802) 888-5733
	Caledonia, Orleans & Essex Counties..... St. Johnsbury (802) 751-0110