

BAY COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL

810 Livingston
Bay City, Michigan 48708

TOM PUTT, MANAGER

puttt@baycounty.net

Phone (989) 894-4555
Fax (989) 894-0526
TDD (989) 895-4049
<http://www.baycounty-mi.gov>



LAURA OGAR, DIRECTOR
ogarl@baycounty.net

Community Initiatives
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TOM HICKNER
County Executive

Press Release

Spring Aerial Mosquito Treatment to Begin April 26, 2013

For Immediate Release: April 25, 2013

Contact: Bay County Mosquito Control, Thomas J. Putt or Mary J. McCarry,
Phone: (989) 894-4555, FAX: (989) 894-0526

As part of a public health initiative to provide for the safety and protection of Bay County residents, Bay County Mosquito Control (BCMC) will begin conducting its 2013 mosquito program on April 26, concentrating efforts on seasonally flooded woodlots throughout the county. Aircraft will dispense *Bti*, a naturally-occurring bacteria fed on by mosquito larvae, within standing water occupying seasonally flooded woodlots. Roughly 40,000 acres will be treated with the *Bti* corn-cob granules, targeting mosquitoes before they reach the adult, biting stage. Controlling mosquito larvae at the correct developmental stage is a critical step in Bay County's comprehensive mosquito control program and is increasingly important as less funding is available to treat both the larval and adult stages due to reduced millage revenue and higher treatment costs.

The annual aerial treatment program has taken place for over thirty years in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Accurate timing of the aerial campaign is extremely important and is based on the growth and life stage of the mosquito, which is why surveillance of the mosquito population before treatment is extremely important.

Residents may notice low-flying fixed wing aircraft in areas near wooded portions of the city and townships. This is the first year when only airplanes will be used to deliver the *Bti* product to all townships; no helicopter application will occur as in the past for budgeting reasons. Aircraft will most often be seen after they have released the *Bti* and while they are realigning for another spray pass.

Thomas Putt is the Director of Bay County Mosquito Control and can be reached at (989) 894-4555 for more information about the aerial larviciding process.###