

## BAY COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL

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Community Initiatives  
Geographic Information Systems  
Gypsy Moth Suppression Program  
Mosquito Control  
Transportation Planning

**TOM HICKNER**  
County Executive

## Press Release

### Spring Aerial Mosquito Treatment to Begin April 14-15, 2015

**For Immediate Release:** April 14, 2015

**Contact:** Bay County Mosquito Control, Thomas J. Putt or Mary J. McCarry,  
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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 2015 mosquito program on April 14-15 (weather permitting), 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 in every township. Roughly 45,000 acres will be treated with the *Bti* corn-cob granules, targeting mosquitoes before they reach the adult, biting stage. Controlling mosquito larvae is a critical step in Bay County's comprehensive mosquito control program.

This annual program has been going on for over thirty years in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Timing of the aerial campaign is extremely important and is based on when larvae feed most heartily. Therefore, surveillance of the mosquito population before treatment is extremely important. Biologist Mary McCarry says, "Monitoring larval populations from their initial hatch is necessary in order to time the treatment correctly and promote effective control."

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**April 14, 2015**

Residents may notice low-flying fixed wing aircraft in areas near wooded portions of the city and townships treating from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. over the next week, weather permitting. Aircraft will most often be seen after they have released the *Bti* and while they are realigning for another spray pass.

Once container-breeding mosquitoes are active in mid-May, individuals can participate in West Nile virus prevention efforts by eliminating sources of stagnant water on their property. This includes the following: getting rid of old tires, tin cans, pails, or any other water-holding containers, or storing them upside down; keeping ditches drains, and culverts clear of weeds and trash for proper drainage; draining water from tarps or plastic sheeting which covers wood piles, boats, etc.; emptying plastic wading pools at least once a week and storing them inside when not in use; changing bird bath water weekly; keeping grass cut short and shrubbery well-trimmed so adult mosquitoes will not rest there during the day; and using fine mesh screen on the top of rain barrels to prevent female adults from reaching the water surface to lay eggs. Residents can also protect themselves from mosquitoes by applying insect repellent before going outside at dawn, dusk and during the evening.

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.###