

Natural Health News

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EVERGREEN SPA & WELLNESS
ELY, MN

THE PROBLEM WITH AERIAL SPRAYING

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STORE HOURS:

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9 am-5 pm

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Like a large number of Ely residents I am very concerned about the state's plan to spray the Ely area with Foray 48b in an effort to control the Gypsy moth population. The Department of Agriculture claims Foray 48b, a water-based formulation of bacteria and chemicals, to be proven safe. Foray 48b is an insecticide with the active ingredient Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis* Berliner variation *kurstaki*) and does pose very serious health risks. The spores of the bacteria can trigger allergic responses and asthma in some people. The formulation also includes chemicals and human pathogens not disclosed by the manufacturer due to "trade secret" laws. Human pathogens should not be sprayed in communities at any level. Yet, the formula can be declared free of pathogens as long as testing indicates contamination is below certain levels. The Department of Agriculture claims Foray 48b has a proven safety record with people and animals. However, numerous studies indicated there are adverse effects on animals and humans including a study by researchers in France who found that inhaling these spores can cause lung inflammation as well as internal bleeding. Furthermore, no allergy testing has been done on this product. There have been reports of serious and life-threatening reactions in the U.S. and Canada. The Ecological Health Alliance reports that the 1999 aerial spraying of Foray 48b in Victoria, B.C., resulted in adverse reactions in more than 70 individuals. A 1993 Washington State report on the health effects of one single Gypsy moth aerial spray program indicates that 279 patients or doctors reported illnesses believed to be related to Foray 48b exposure, six of them so severe that emergency medical care was required. Many other examples are documented. Adverse reactions are usually underreported because doctors and patients are not made aware of the connection between the symptoms and the exposure to Foray 48b. Applications of Foray 48b can drift at least 12 miles and adverse reactions reported by people living outside the spray zones often get dismissed as unrelated to the spray. If you are within 10 to 12 miles of an area that is sprayed, know the risks: reported symptoms include but are not limited to: asthma and other respiratory problems, infections, fever, anaphylaxis, seizures, gastro-intestinal illness, flu-like symptoms, mild to severe swelling and rashes, eye problems, joint swelling and pain, headaches, and neurological symptoms. The people most at risk for health complications from the aerial spray are the elderly, children, people with allergies, those with asthma and other lung conditions, anyone with digestive or bowel conditions, those with already weakened immune systems and anyone with general sensitivities. But people who are in generally good health have been affected as well. It is possible but unknown whether Foray 48b is a carcinogen because no long term studies have been done. It is also unknown whether Foray 48b affects reproductive health because no long term studies have been done. Aerial spraying of Foray 48b has led to a decline in the bird and bee population and beneficial insects. ~ over ~



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The MDA along with other agencies would have us believe that the Foray 48b dissipates in a matter of 30 minutes and with certainty in a matter of days. This is ignorance or a lie on their part because studies confirmed the presence of airborne Btk spores in and near a spray zone for up to a year. Viable Btk spores have also been found 24 hours post spray inside sealed buildings. Not to mention the adverse effects on our soils, our gardens, pets, wells, and our food chain. Water treatment does NOT destroy Btk spores and may persist in water supply for up to 200 days and in the water sediment for 270 days after application. Aside from the undeniable health risks, there is also the question of “why”? The MDA states that the spraying “slows the spread” but there is no guarantee that it will kill all the caterpillars. There is also a concern about these caterpillars/moths to grow resistant to Foray 48b which is very common with any pesticide which will translate into more frequent sprays and applications. And what exactly will we be gaining in exchange for putting everyone’s health at risk? The ecosystem is designed to find balance and cleansing on its own and it is not mankind’s job to upset and mess with it. Nothing positive ever comes from it—this is the same problem with round-up, GMO’s, and “Frankenstein foods” that are forced upon us, and are endangering our health for the sake of large profits limited to certain corporations. We simply have to stop interfering with nature and trying to outwit the laws of nature and spend more time respecting it. I urge you to get involved and voice your concerns by contacting the Department of Agriculture and demand safer alternatives to aerial spraying. Mass trapping is a safe, effective alternative to spraying. Other proactive and preventative approaches to prevent the establishment of Gypsy moth infestations include public education, larval searching, burlap banding of trees and egg mass searching and removal. As residents of this town we should be able to obtain a restraining order or preliminary injunction to stop the spraying, and to petition the City Council asking it to exercise its statutory obligations to protect its citizens under the Health Act. I hope that everyone will realize the seriousness of this issue and that through the masses we may all work as one to find a reasonable and healthier alternative to bathing in bacteria. A council meeting and informative hearing is slated for April 11, at 5:30 PM at City Hall. You can also email the MDA at: Kimberly.tremers@state.mn.us, get more local information and sign a petition at www.elybuzz.com.

“In nature nothing exists alone.” ~ Rachel Carson ~ author of “Silent Spring”

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“The Earth we abuse and the living things we kill, will in the end, take their revenge; for in exploiting their presence we are diminishing our future.”
~ Marya Mannes

“If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos.” ~ Edward O. Wilson

“The system of nature, of which man is a part, tends to be self-balancing, self-adjusting, self-cleansing. Not so with technology.”

~ E.F. Schumacher

“I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and spent more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority.”
~ Elwyn Brooks White



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