

Roscommon County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program 2020-2023 Millage Proposal White Paper

The millage that funded the Roscommon County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program from 2010 to 2020 expired in January 2020.

A new millage is on the August 2020 ballot. This is the new millage language:

GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM MILLAGE

Shall the previously voted tax Limitation of General Ad Valorem Taxes within the County of Roscommon, imposed under Article IX, section 6 of the Michigan Constitution, be **increased by 0.1250 mill** (.125 cents per \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for 4 years, 2020 through 2023 inclusive, for the purpose of continuing to fund an inclusive Gypsy Moth Suppression Program, and shall the county be authorized to levy such increase in millage for said purpose, which will raise in the first year an estimated \$174,071.

A **YES vote** means the Roscommon Gypsy Moth Suppression Program will continue for four more years, from 2020 through 2023. It will be funded by a tax of 0.1250 mill (.125 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value, for a total of \$12.50 per year for a home valued at \$100,000).

A **NO vote** means the Roscommon County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program will be terminated, and no supporting tax will be levied.

Services provided by the Roscommon County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program:

-Survey of egg masses on all properties in Roscommon County in autumn to determine spray map areas for spring spray application. The Roscommon County Gypsy Moth survey crew provides temporary employment for 12-20 Roscommon County residents annually.

-Aerial spray application of Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*), a natural bacterial pathogen of the gypsy moth. It occurs in soils and on plants throughout the world. It is employed in a biological insecticide used to suppress the gypsy moth and many other insect pests. The application takes place once on private properties more heavily infested with gypsy moth egg masses, as determined by the survey. (In 2020 we sprayed 18,000 acres.) The spray takes place in the spring when gypsy moth caterpillars are hatching in order to limit the gypsy moth population and the damage they cause.

-Consultation, training, and information to help landowners manage gypsy moth infestation and damage on their properties.