

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES
CORNER BROOK, NL**

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UPDATE ON THE 2017 FOREST INSECT CONTROL PROGRAM

DATE: July 26, 2017 **TIME:** 12:00 pm **NUMBER OF PAGES:** 1

MESSAGE:

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources – Forestry and Wildlife Branch wishes to advise that the aircraft to be used for the 2017 hemlock looper control program arrived in Newfoundland the evening of Wednesday, July 19th.

Testing and calibration of the aircraft was conducted at the Stephenville airport on Thursday, July 20th, however, a test flight could not be conducted due to weather. The morning of Friday, July 21st a test flight which included the aerial treatment of a test block with water only was conducted in the Landowns Pond area.

On Friday, July 21 the aircraft was repositioned to the Port au Choix airstrip in preparation for the start of the 2017 control program. Areas scheduled for treatment are now biologically ready.

High winds and rain prevented treatments from being conducted over the period July 21st to July 24th. On the morning of July 25th, a first application of Btk was completed for blocks 101 and 102. A 2nd application of Btk was completed for block 101 lines 1 to 8 the evening of July 25th. A 2nd application of Btk was conducted for block 102 line 5 to 14 the morning of July 26th. Second applications were conducted only in the portions of these blocks where larval counts were highest and defoliation from last year was evident. The 2017 hemlock looper program is now complete. The spray aircraft used during the 2017 program has been released and will be leaving the Province later today. There will be no further updates on the 2017 program.

This program was carried out under license from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. Additional information can be provided by calling the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, Pesticides Control Section, at 1-800-563-6181 (Monday-Friday; 8:30 am – 4:00pm).

Information regarding the time and location of treatments was made available throughout the control program at http://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/idc/ins_control_2017.html or through the Forest Insect Control Program Update Line at 1-877-636-2996. Individuals calling the update line can leave a voice mail message. Messages are checked daily.

MAPS OF TREATMENT AREAS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT LOCAL FORESTRY SERVICE OFFICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT OFFICE AT ST. JOHN'S, AND ON THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND LAND RESOURCES WEB SITE.