# Oak Processionary Moth Information Seminar

Henry Kuppen, Mark Townsend and Alex Austin





# House Keeping

- Welcome
- Toilets
- Fire exits
- Mobile phones
- Lunch and refreshments
- Questions





# Structure of the day

- Introduction to G&T
- Background to OPM outbreak
- OPM lifecycle
- Identification of OPM over other moths
- Health impact/issues

boomverzorging

- Holland experience and digital recording
- G&T OPM experience since 2008
- Development in chemical applications
- Development in physical removal
- Questions

#### LUNCH 13:15

- Trip to Holland
- Control methods in Germany, Belgium and Holland
- Nematodes research and development
- Relevance of Dutch outbreak to London
- G&T working with the LTOA
- Current situation
- Open floor and Questions



# **Gristwood and Toms**

- The company was started by Andy and Dave in 1974.
- Carry out all aspects of tree work.
- Complete consultancy services.
- Partnership between Kuppen Boomverzorging and Gristwood and Toms.





# **Background information**

- OPM was first discovered in Richmond in 2026.
- High incidence of rash amongst residents on Housing estate lead to investigation by Environmental Health services
- Second site identified on Hanger Lane near A40 also planted with infected trees around same time.





# Life cycle – Egg Plaque



•Overwinter •Survive extended freezing •Up to 300 eggs per plaque. •Lay on multiple oak trees •Might not all hatch in same year •Very hard to spot so not practical as survey tool. Located on new growth in upper half of canopy •Open sunny habitat favoured





Eggs hatch just prior to bud burst, typically mid April.
Small, <3mm</li>
Orange with black head
Very hard to see from the ground
Feed at night
Stay in buds
Don't form nests
No harmful hairs





Shed skin as food and temperature increases
Early may
Still no harmful hairs
Remain in the extremities of the branches





Mid May
Between 10-15mm
Start to produce toxic hairs but not many
Aggregate in large groups
Little predation due to

hairs

Gristwood &Toms



Mid May to mid June
Start to produce toxic hairs
Start to form tents, clean and pale colour
20-25mm
Accumulation of shed skin
Protection from

predation by birdsApprox 700,000 toxic hairs each







boomverzorging

June to mid July
Easy to indentify
Nests larger
covered in silk and
shed skins
Silk trails leading
into the canopy
30mm
Clear signs of
feeding damage
Permanent tents
further down tree





boomverzorging

June to July.
35mm.
Large, dirty nests.
Brown colour due to shed skins.
From golf ball size up.
Located on trunk and scaffold limbs.



#### Life cycle - Pupae



boomverzorging

•Mid June to early September Consolidation of L6 nest •Can be at ground level with grass incorporated. •Contains lots of excrement and shed skins. •Remains hazardous due to hairs for years. •Recent evidence of intact nest in Autumn, possibility of over wintering



# Feeding damage



Can be easier to spot than nests or caterpillars.
Increases from L4.
Stripping to mid vein.
Caterpillars feed in groups resulting in localised damage.



# Life Cycle - Adult Moth



Late July to end September
Female fly up to 5Km.
Males fly up to 20Km.
Will not fly further
than needed to reach good food source.
Lives 4-5 days only



# Life cycle summary

OPM life cycle stage – diagram

Stage of OPM	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Egg							
Instar(Stage) 1							
Instar(Stage) 2		_					
Instar(Stage) 3				-			
Instar(Stage) 4							
Instar(Stage) 5							
Instar(Stage) 6							
Pupa							_
Adult (Moth)					_		
The presence of OPM at life cycle stage							





#### Other moths





Lymantria dispar, Gypsy moth





#### **Other Moths**





#### Euproctis chrysorrhoea Brown Tail Moth





## **Other Moths**

#### Yponomeuta rorrella Willon Ermine Moth





# Health impact and issues

#### Henry Kuppen

**Oak Processionary Moth Information Seminar** 













Urticating hairs contains foreign body protein, Thaumetopoiene





#### **Health risks**





- Skin
- Eyes
- Upper respiratory
- Overall malaise
- Restriction to leisure and recreational activity







#### 4.Health issues OPM

- Urticating hairs remain active over a period of >5-7 years;
- Each larvae has approximately 700,000 urticating hairs from L4;
- Urticating hairs and shed skins persist in a tree for years;
- Unicating hairs spread by wind and removal work

#### **Mechanism of urticating hairs**

Mechanical irritation of skin;

 Pseudo-alergic reaction causes release toxin thaumetopoiene causing complete body reaction;

Alergic reaction based on IgE mediated type 1 reaction = disfunction of body.

#### How health problems arise

- Direct contact with nests or larvea;
- Indirect contact with urticating hairs in the air.
- May until July: urticating hairs swarm in the air in area around larvae.
- May until August: urticating hairs drift in the wind from nests.

#### How health problems arise



 Tree workers are at risk all year round from contacting old nests

#### **Other health effects**

- Local effects on upper respiratory tract: similar to snivel, irritation of upper respiratory tract, sore throath, dyspnea;
- General complaints: vomiting, dizziness, fever, malaise.
- Limiting residential recreational enjoyment: cycling, hiking limited, windows have to be kept shut, limitation to hang laundry out, children can not play outside.



# **Risk Groups**

• Users of public places.

 Pets, especially dogs and horses;

Controllers, Inspectors.

# Holland experience and digital recording



**Oak Processionary Moth Information Seminar** 





# **Expansion over the Netherlands** 200 2004 1989

Bron: Plantenziektenkundige Dienst (LNV) www.minlmv.nl/eikenprocessieruns


Bron: Plantenziektenkundige Dienst (LNV) www.minlmvnl/sikenprocessierups





Bron: Plantenziektenkundige Dienst (LNV) www.minlnv.nl/eikenprocessierups





Bron: Plantenziektenkundige Dienst (LNV) www.minlov.nl/eikenprocessierups





Bron: Plantenziektenkundige Dienst (LNV) www.minlov.nl/eikenprocessierups

### Lyfecycle year 2005-2010





![](_page_42_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Natural parasites:

- Tachinidae, true flies;
- Calsoma sycophanta, forest caterpillar hunter;
- Pimpla procesionea, ichneumon flies;
- Bats, Great Tit...etc.

![](_page_45_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Management costs the Netherlands

418 Communities with between 100 to 100,000 Oaks

![](_page_46_Figure_2.jpeg)

2010, costs increased by 25%, some communities spend more than
 € 200.000,

![](_page_47_Picture_0.jpeg)

Oak species

**Preferred** species

1<sup>st</sup> European species:

- Q. robur
- Q. petrea
  - Q. cerris
- Q. frainetto ....

#### 2<sup>nd</sup>

American species:

- Q. rubra
- Q. palustris
- Q. coccinea ...

### Recording

1 Totalen monitoring EPR en Risico Analyse seizoen 2008																
2	Waarnemer Willem en Henry													1.242		
3	3 Opdrachtgever		Gemeente Rheden												10	luppen
4															boomverzorging	
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6	13-jan	Dieren	Wilhelminaplein		۷	3	3	31	3	100%	12,33	Hoog	2	24,67	J	ri
7	13-jan	Dieren	Oranje Nassaustraat		V	9	3	14	1	33%	5,33	Hoog	2	3,56	J	
8	9-jan	Dieren	Meidoornlaan		J	76	3	4		4%	1,33	Matig	2	0,11	N.	vanaf imboslaan tot nr 7, 2-36 en131
9	9-jan	Dieren	Taxuslaan		H/V	20	1	1		5%	1,00	Laag	1	0,05	N	achter de huizen
10	9-jan	Dieren	Harderwijkerweg		٧	135	25	35	6	19%	1,88	Matig	3	1,04	J	van Priesnitzlaan tot Imboslaan
11	9-jan	Dieren	Imboslaan		V I	53	16	25		30%	1,56	Matig	3	1,42	J	Breukinklaan
12	9-jan	Dieren	Beverodelaan		V	57	10	14	3	18%	2,00	Matig	3	1,05	J	thy 19, 41-53, 193
13	12-jan	Dieren	Peter van Anrooylaan			5	1	1		20%	1,00	Laag	1	0,20	N.	Achter speelveld
14	9-jan	Dieren	Ad. Helfrichlaan		HIV	12	7	11		58%	1,57	Matig	3	2,75	J	Basisschool de Vlinder en de Akker
15	9-jan	Dieren	Vogelplantsoen			3	1	1		33%	1,00	Laag	1	0,33	N.	t.h.v. nr 2
16	12-jan	Dieren	Domeinenlaan			3	1	1		33%	1,00	Laag	2	0,67	- N -	Achter speelveld
17	12-jan	Dieren	van der Duyn van Maasdamstraat			5	2	2		40%	1,00	Laag	2	0,80	N.	Achter speelveld
18	13-jan	Dieren	Burg. Bruinstraat		H/V	41	19	41		46%	2,16	Matig	1	1,00	J J	Burg. Willemsestraat
19	9-jan	Dieren	Wilgenhof		J/H/V	25	4	9		16%	2,25	Matig	1	0,36	N.	nr 2-32
20	13-jan	Dieren	Olmenhof		Н	4	2	1	1	50%	1,50	Matig	1	0,75	- N -	Nr. 21+ 29 (achterkant woningen)
21	13-jan	Dieren	Nachtegaalpad		H	8	0	0		0%	nvt	nvt	1	0,00	N.	Olmenhof 22
22	13-jan	Dieren	Magnolialaan		Н	2	1	1		50%	1,00	Laag	1	0,50	- N -	
23	12-jan	Dieren	Labriehof			3	1	3		33%	3,00	Matig	1	0,90	N.	Achter nr. 9
24	9-jan	Dieren	Rode Kruislaan		V/H	3	3	3	28	100%	19,67	Hoog	2	39,33	J	Nr 1, 2 Speeltuin.
25	12-jan	Dieren	Surinkhof			4	1	2		25%	2,00	Matig	1	0,50	N	thy or 14
26	9-jan	Dieren	Einthovenlaan	•	٧	1	1	12		100%	12,00	Hoog	1	12,00	J	nr 6 (particulier)
27	9-jan	Dieren	Druckerlaan		V/H	5	2	3		40%	1,50	Matig	2	1,20	J	to nr 10
28	12-ian	Dieren	Koloniewea			15	3	3		20%	1.00	Laad	1	0.20	N.	Parkeerplaats sc Erica

![](_page_49_Picture_0.jpeg)

**DIGI**tal report and controlling online system for **DIS**eases

![](_page_49_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Nieuwe melding

Naam van de melder:

Telefoonnummer van de melder:

Beschrijving van lokatie:

Opslaan

Naam van de medewerker Stadswinkel: Telefoonnummer van de medewerker Stadswinkel: Mevrouw Janssen 0521-123 456 Dorpsstraat 52 Havelte Johan Trompetter 0521- 349 349 Report contains: -Location

-Name

-Telephone nr.

# **1.** ONLINE REPORTUpdate onsite with outbreak data

![](_page_51_Picture_1.jpeg)

Record contains: -tree species -tree neight -place of nest -priority based on risk profile -method of removal -intensity

![](_page_51_Figure_3.jpeg)

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🎥 REGISTRATIE 🦷 👫 9:54	
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boomsoort QUROBUR	V
boomhoogte 12-15 m	V
🗌 stam) 🗌 stamvoet) 🗹 kro	oon
prioriteit standaard	V
methode plukken	V
Terug Verder	
Afbreken	
	-

🔫 digidis

Every registration automaticly contains date and time

## **1.** ONLINE REPORTAdd onsite with recorded data

![](_page_52_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Figure_0.jpeg)

With specific site colour based on priority

#### **3. ONLINE ERADICATION** Update with eradication data

![](_page_54_Picture_1.jpeg)

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PLAAGDRUKINVOERX
Selectie BC0001 ?
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boomhoogte 12-15 m
✓ stam  Stamvoet  kroon
prioriteit laag V
methode plukken V
plaagdruk Laag
Verder
Afbreken

![](_page_54_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Picture_4.jpeg)

Eradication data contains: -Tree species -Tree height -Place of nest\* -Priority\* -Method of removal\* -Pest intensity

![](_page_55_Figure_0.jpeg)

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### **Online opportunities:**

#### •Print:

- mapsdata of each report
- Distance measuring

![](_page_57_Figure_4.jpeg)

### G&T OPM 2008 experience

![](_page_58_Picture_1.jpeg)

boomverzorging

- Sprayed 3 trees in Twyford Abbey with DiPel.
  - Early morning application.
- Foliage spray from MEWP.
- Direct staff used.

![](_page_58_Picture_6.jpeg)

### G&T OPM 2009 experience

![](_page_59_Picture_1.jpeg)

boomverzorging

- Hanger Lane area 12 trees, 2 applications of DiPel.
- Manual nest removal required on all trees.
- Sites identified at Instar 4-6 by FC and E.B.C.
- Post emergence nest removal – still needed for Health reasons
- Quercus cerris on private land at plague stage. Nest approx 3'x1', by rail line.
- 6 FC traps installed for FC. FC monitored contents

![](_page_59_Picture_8.jpeg)

### G&T OPM 2010 experience

- Kew monitored egg plaque for regional emergence (19<sup>th</sup> April)
- Within 2 weeks of emergence preventative foliage spray of DiPel on all infected trees from 2009.
- L3 found with FC on LBE trees 13th May.
- Deltamethrin applied to scaffold branches on all 2009 trees.
- External pesticide specialist used for Deltamethrine spray.
- Sprayed 19 public trees. Only 1 nest developed on these.
- Nest removal by vacuum on 12 public trees and 26 private trees.
- Vacuum nest removal carried out on A406 North Circular
- Trip to Holland to meet with Henry
- Trapping with Dutch and FC traps.

![](_page_60_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Picture_12.jpeg)

### **Development in chemical use**

![](_page_61_Picture_1.jpeg)

boomverzorging

Deltamethrin

•BASIS certified consultant prepared Risk assessment and Method Statement prior to use.

Environmental impact considered.
External pesticide specialist applies chemical to scaffold limbs.

•Very successful treatment as only 1 nest in all 19 trees treated.

![](_page_61_Picture_6.jpeg)

### **Development in physical removal**

![](_page_62_Picture_1.jpeg)

Purchase 2 specialist vacuums with medical grade, triple filtration HEPA filters
Develop national manual removal standard with the FC
Waste sealed in bags ready for disposal.
Specific climbing equipment for OPM use only.
No use of Blow torches.
Upgrade in PPE including respiration protection.

![](_page_62_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Picture_4.jpeg)

### **Meeting with Fargro**

- UK presentative of Valent Biosciences manufacturers of DiPel and XenTari BT products
- DiPel effective against OPM
- Application is critical
- Mist/Fog and Sthil Blower for application
- Research into application methods
- Research into using Dimilin Flo and DiPel together

![](_page_63_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Picture_8.jpeg)

### **Trip to Holland**

![](_page_64_Picture_1.jpeg)

boomverzorging

- •Established pest for many years.
- •Tried and tested procedures and management.
- •Benchmark our work methods.
- •Explore potential developments.
- •Large scale operation.
- •Start of partnership between G&T and HK

![](_page_64_Picture_8.jpeg)

## Control methods in Germany, Belgium and Holland

### Henry Kuppen

**Oak Processionary Moth Information Seminar** 

![](_page_65_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Picture_4.jpeg)

### **Controlling** method

**1. Electrostatic low pressure tree spraying unit** 

#### **Properties:**

- Airflow capacity 300 m<sup>3</sup>/min;
- Electric control valve;
- Electrostatic unit;
- Videocamera.

![](_page_67_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_68_Picture_0.jpeg)

Caterpillars eat Bt's, in 1 to 4 hours they stop eating;
Dying in 2 to 10 days.

### Details

Δ.

- 1) Bt toxin crystals dessolve in intestinal tract.
- 2) Bt toxin crystals activate and fix to intestine.
- 3) Intestinal tract is damaged.
- 4) Bt spreads in caterpillar and host dies.

![](_page_70_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_71_Picture_0.jpeg)


# **Controlling** method

### 2.Blow torch

#### **Personal protection:**

- Leather pressuremask
- Leather gloves
- Fire resistant overalls
- Fire resistant underwear
- Leather boots
- Fire extinguisher



















## **2.Properties Blow torch**

- Not to be used on young trees
- Dangerous material remaining
- Employees are highly exposed to urticating hairs;
- Urticating hairs spread over 100 meters.

## Controlling method 3.Picking

**Personal protection:** 

- Pressuremask
- Gloves
- Overals type 5/6
- Boots













## **3.Properties picking**

- •Quick, deployeable in every kind of tree;
- Labor intensive method;
- Limited spread of urticating hairs;
- Be aware of processing urticating material as dangerous, waste.

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# **Controlling** method

### 4. Parasite Hit<sup>®</sup>

- Mobile burning unit with platforms;
- High transportation speed;
- High capacity;
- Researched method, waste material is harmless;
- No limitation for disposal as not dangerous material;











### Controlling method 5. Sucking with industrial vacuum cleaner

- Labour intensive method;
- Contact with urticating hairs;
- High transportation speed;
- Flexible method useable from platform and inaccessible areas;
- Dispose of as hazardous waste.





Spraying

Picking

yet

# Controlling is the mix of right methods!

Sucking



Registration

# Nematodes, research and development

**Oak Processionary Moth Information Seminar** 









•Nematodes can be used as a natural parasite to OPM;

•Nematodes has to be applied twice in the evening;

•Nematodes reduce a population by 85%.





9-6-2010














100% afgestorven



### Pheromone traps





### Properties pheromone traps

- Gives information about pest intensity and spread;
- Collects moths from outside management area;
- Information can be translated to inspection areas;
- One fresh moth or more than 5 flew off moths indicates that there are nests in 500 meter.



#### Inspection areas next season



Red circle, inspection area radius 500 metre from infected tree;

Blue circle, inspection area radius 500 metre from pheromone trap with less than 5 moths;

Big blue circle, inspection area radius 1000 metre from pheromone trap with more than 5 moths or 1 fresh moth;





### Research Compact Unit by University of Wageningen



#### Relevance of Dutch outbreak to London



boomverzorging

- New outbreak detected in 2009 in Amsterdam
- Urban environment
- Established for about 3 years
- Survey and Pheromone traps to indicate spread.
- Similar treatment restrictions



# **G&T working with LTOA**

- Part of the LTOA OPM working group
- Co-operative effort between tree officers and contractors
- Aims:
  - Accurate plotting of previous outbreaks
  - Uniform data collection going forward
    - Develop management plan across outbreak area





#### **Current situation**



boomverzorging

- HK to provide training to key G&T staff.
- Nest removal in Reading.
- LTOA OPM management plan.
  - Van MEWP for all weather removal.
  - Start pre-season checks of equipment.
- Awaiting clarification of FC involvement



# Current situation – Natural Englard

- LTOA OPM group request for information from NE regarding use of pesticides in SSSI.
- Highlight the need for more information
- Learn from experience in Europe.
- DiPel over Deltamethrin.
- Need for joined up response.





### Current situation – Forestry Commission STOP PRESS

- Announcement from FC to move to Containment rather then irradication
- Management down to Local Authorities and Tree owners
- FC no longer to issue Statutory Notices in core outbreak zone
- Monitor population only via pheromone traps





## Why G&T

- Proactive and progressive leader in OPM management.
- Exclusive partnership with leading European expert.
- Access to latest R&D developments.
- Committed to protecting you, our staff and the environment.
  - Fully equipment to handle all situations





#### Discussion: •Eradication OR •Reducing health problems to acceptable levels



boomverzorging





