

Reduce Gypsy Moth Damage In Your Woods



Keep trees healthy by maintaining proper stocking. A healthy tree can withstand attacks by the gypsy moth and other pests. Periodic thinning encourages vigorous growth and good health. Take time to learn what a well-stocked oak forest looks like. Talk to your local forester.

Increase tree diversity in woodlots dominated by oak. Gypsy moth doesn't like trees such as ash, maple and nut trees. By increasing the proportion of these less preferred trees, you help reduce the damage gypsy moth will do in your woods.

Be alert to increasing gypsy moth populations. If your woodlot is in eastern Wisconsin, visually inspect your trees for gypsy moth egg masses in the fall. If the population of egg masses is high, you might consider a protective treatment the following spring. For more details, request publication FR-156, *Guides for Predicting Gypsy Moth Damage for Forest Landowners*, from your nearest DNR Service Center.

Oaks growing in grass are particularly vulnerable to severe defoliation. Why? The lawn discourages mice and shrews from hunting for gypsy moth in these trees, as there is no cover from cats, owls or hawks. These small mammals are the most important predators for gypsy moth and when protected from them, the caterpillars can increase rapidly.



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For additional assistance contact:

Request publication *Forestry Facts* #83 from your local Extension office or DNR Service Center.

Or contact:

1-800-642-MOTH
 Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
 University of Wisconsin Extension
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources—Forestry Program

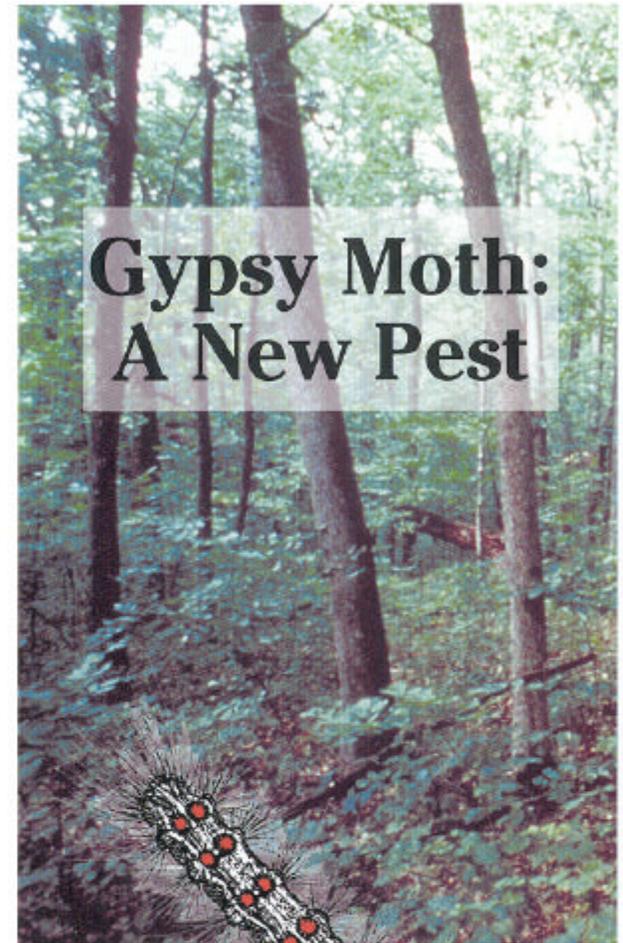


Text by Andrea Diss, Gypsy Moth Coordinator, WDNR and Genny Fannucchi, Forest Resource Education and Awareness Specialist, WDNR

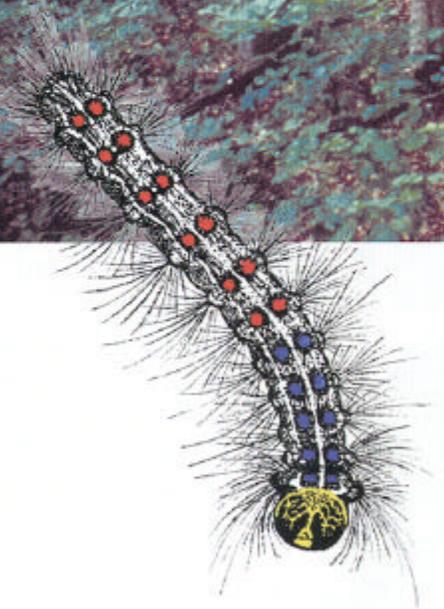
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Gypsy Moth: A New Pest



Reduce Gypsy Moth Numbers At Home

Dealing with the Caterpillars



Barrier Bands—These sticky bands entangle caterpillars as they head up into trees to feed. Many caterpillars fall out of their tree during dispersal or to escape birds and you can prevent them from getting back up there

to do damage. Place bands on tree in late April and take them down in August or when you put up a burlap band. Use band of duct tape to prevent the pest barrier jelly from staining or damaging the tree's bark. A shallow band of Tanglefoot or other pest barrier is sufficient to catch insects.



Collection Bands—Burlap bands are used to collect older, larger caterpillars. In June and July, gypsy moth caterpillars crawl down the tree trunk during the day to hide from predators. If you put up a burlap band, they will hide under that and you can collect and kill them easily.



Burlap band how to:



1) Cut a strip of burlap 12-18 inches wide and long enough to go around the tree.

Wrap the burlap around the tree at chest height. Tie a string around the burlap 6 inches from the top edge. Let the top 6 inches flop over and form a two-tiered skirt.

2) Check the bands every day from mid-afternoon to about 6 PM. Use a knife to flick caterpillars into a cup of soapy water. Don't handle the caterpillars as their hairs can

cause a rash! After the caterpillars are dead, throw the insects in the trash.

Killing the Eggs

Killing or removing egg masses is the most effective physical method of reducing the population of gypsy moth in your yard. Each egg mass destroyed is 600-1000 caterpillars you won't have to deal with next spring!

Once leaves have fallen, examine your trees, outdoor furniture, play equipment, structures and even the exterior of your house for egg masses. They are often found in cracks or hidden spots: under signs nailed to trees, shutters or loose bark are favorite sites.



Spritz or paint egg masses with Golden Natur^l Oil to kill them. The active ingredient is soybean oil and it kills eggs by coating them and causing the eggs to suffocate.

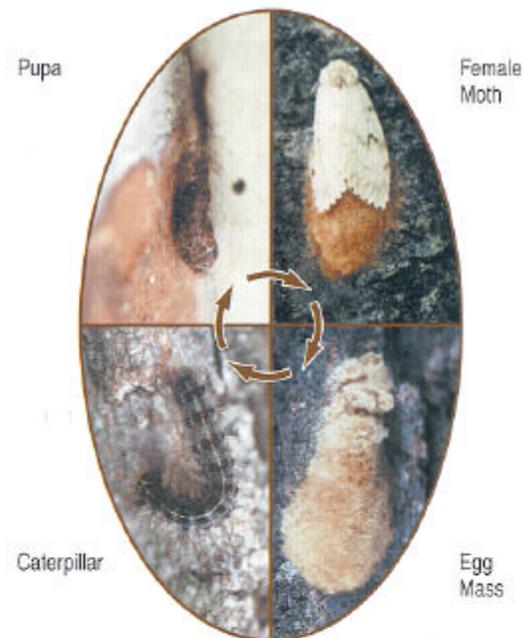
If you remove egg masses, scrape them off into a jar. Eggs dropped on the ground will hatch next spring. You can kill collected eggs by microwaving them for 2 minutes on high or by covering them in a mix of soybean or corn oil and water. You can then screw on the top and throw the jar and eggs in the trash.



For additional details see the publication FR- 157, *What to do about Gypsy Moths in your backyard* available through DNR Service Centers or from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

For additional assistance contact:

- ❖ Your County Extension Horticulture Agent
- ❖ The DNR Regional Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator
Green Bay—920-492-5800
Milwaukee—414-263-8500
- ❖ Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection—1-800-642-MOTH



Learn To Recognize Gypsy Moth Life Stages

The **moth** is the adult stage of the insect. The female gypsy moth is white and even though she has wings, she can't fly. The male is one inch long, brown and flies looking for the female in the late afternoon in late July to early Aug. The adult gypsy moths cannot feed and only live long enough to mate and produce eggs.

The female gypsy moth lays all her eggs in one cluster called an **egg mass**. Each egg mass contains 600-1000 eggs. The female covers the eggs with hairs from her body, giving the egg mass a furry appearance. The eggs will hatch next spring.

Small **caterpillars**, having over-wintered in the egg mass, emerge in mid-May. The caterpillar is the worm-like form of an insect. As the caterpillar grows, pairs of colored warts appear running down the center of its back. The warts are red on the rear half and blue near the head. The caterpillar is covered in bristly hairs, which can cause a rash in people who handle them. Gypsy moth caterpillars feed in May, June and early July. They don't make nests. They do come down out for the trees every afternoon starting in June to hide from birds and other predators and then return in the evening to feed.

The **pupa**—this is the metamorphic stage. Within the pupal shell, the caterpillar's body is rearranging itself into an adult moth. Pupae are similar to cocoons, and are present from late July to August.