

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 and properly timed 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 prefer trees such as maple, red pine, walnut and hickory. By increasing the diversity of trees in your woods, you help reduce the damage gypsy moth and other pests will do. For more information on silviculture, visit gypsymoth.wi.gov.



Be alert to increasing gypsy moth populations. If your woodlot is in a gypsy moth quarantined county, visually inspect your

trees for gypsy moth egg masses in the fall. If egg masses are common, you might consider an aerial spray the following spring. For additional information, visit gypsymoth.wi.gov and link to the Suppression Program. You may also consider ground-based insecticide applications for individual, high value yard trees. An arborist can help you learn about and choose options.

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.

For more information:

Visit: The Wisconsin Cooperative Gypsy Moth Internet site at gypsymoth.wi.gov

Call: The toll-free gypsy moth information line at **1-800-642-MOTH (6684)**

Slow the Spread

A gypsy moth quarantine is in place in many Wisconsin counties. That means by law, gypsy moth may not be moved out of these counties to areas where the pest is not yet established. In fact, items that could carry gypsy moth are not allowed out of quarantined counties without being inspected first. These laws help slow the spread of gypsy moth. Scan the image below with your smart phone to learn about gypsy moth quarantines and much more.

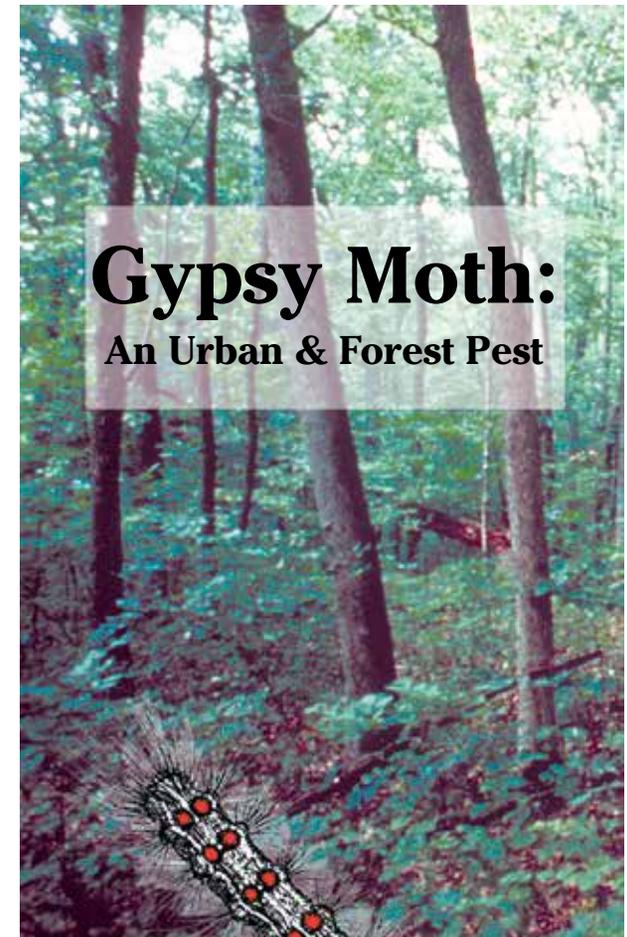


<http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>

*Brochure design by Jeanne Gomoll,
Union Street Design, LLC*

This publication is available upon request in alternate formats for visually impaired persons. Please contact Andrea Diss-Torrance at (608) 264-9247 to request an alternate format.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to: Equal Opportunity Office, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240



Gypsy Moth: An Urban & Forest Pest



Reduce Gypsy Moth Numbers At Home

Dealing with the Caterpillars



Barrier Bands—These sticky bands entangle or deter caterpillars as they move up into trees to feed. After caterpillars fall or move down to escape birds, you can help prevent them from getting

back up the tree to do damage. A narrow band of duct tape around the tree, sticky side down, then covered with a sticky pest barrier material—available from garden centers or other retailers—will catch the caterpillars. **Place these sticky bands on trees in late April and take them down in August or when you put up a burlap collection band.** Don't apply the sticky material directly to the tree and don't use motor oil or similar products on the tree.



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, many 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 p.m. Use a knife to remove caterpillars into a can or bucket of soapy water. Don't handle the caterpillars as their hairs can cause a rash! After the caterpillars are dead, throw them in the trash.

Killing the Eggs

Killing egg masses is the most effective physical method of reducing the population of gypsy moth in your yard. Each egg mass destroyed is 600-1,000 caterpillars you won't have to deal with next spring.

Starting in August, examine your trees, outdoor furniture, play equipment, home, and other buildings for egg masses. They are often found in cracks or hidden spots: behind signs nailed to trees, in birdhouses or beneath loose bark are favorite sites. If you or your area have applied to a spray program, **oil the egg masses instead of removing them.** Surveyors will need to count egg masses in proposed spray blocks before the area will qualify for spraying.



Spray or paint egg masses with a horticultural oil labeled for gypsy moth. These products are formulated to penetrate the egg mass, and are available at many garden centers or online. The oil kills eggs within the mass by coating them and causing the eggs to suffocate. Do not use motor oil.



If you remove egg masses, carefully scrape them off into a can or bucket. Any portion dropped on the ground will hatch in spring. You can kill collected eggs by soaking them in soapy water for 2 days. Then throw the eggs in the trash.

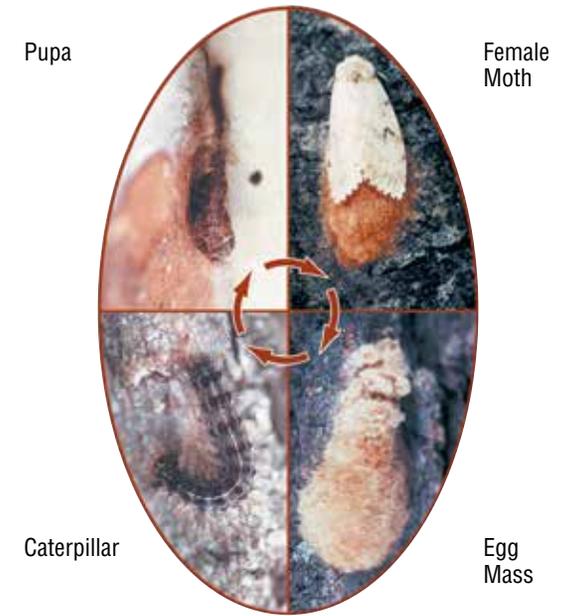
More information about controlling gypsy moth on your property can be found online at gypsymoth.wi.gov.

Don't Move Gypsy Moth

The gypsy moth is a major tree pest once it becomes established in a new area. It eats leaves on most trees and may kill them. You can help prevent gypsy moth from invading new areas by not giving it a free ride.

Gypsy moth often moves into a new location by "hitchhiking" on outdoor materials like firewood, campers, boats and other things. Although all of the life stages can hitch a ride to some extent, it is usually the egg stage that gets moved around. Be sure to inspect your outdoor equipment for egg masses before you move them. Buy or harvest firewood near where you plan to use it and follow current firewood restrictions. It also helps to bring or buy only as much as you'll burn during your trip at one destination.

Don't give gypsy moth a free ride.



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.

In late July or August the female gypsy moth lays all her eggs in one cluster called an **egg mass**. Each egg mass contains 600-1,000 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 from late April to mid-May. As the caterpillar grows, pairs of colored "dots" appear down the center of its back. The dots are red on the rear half and blue near the head. The caterpillar is covered with bristly hairs that can cause a skin rash for people who handle them. Gypsy moth caterpillars feed in May, June and early July. **They do not make silk nests or "tents."** Many come down from the treetop every afternoon starting in June to hide from birds and other predators, then return to the treetop in the evening to feed.

The pupa is the gypsy moth's metamorphic stage. Within the pupal shell, the caterpillar's body is rearranging itself into an adult moth. Pupae are present from late June to August.