



The Town Of Plympton-Wyoming

GYPSY MOTH NEWSLETTER



CATERPILLAR (LARVA)



PUPA



ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE + EGG MASSES

WHAT ARE THEY?

Lymantria dispar dispar or better known as the Gypsy Moth is a non-native moth species that can cause defoliation of trees in Ontario and Eastern North America.

WHY ARE THEY A PROBLEM?

Gypsy Moth outbreaks in Ontario are cyclical, occurring every five to ten years.

During severe population outbreaks, caterpillars can devastate trees and forests consuming more than 400 species of plants. They prefer oak, but will also eat other hardwood trees such as sugar maple, spruce, elm, birch, and poplar. They also feed on garden shrubs, flowering plants, and coniferous trees.

Several years of defoliation can cause tree mortality, especially when it occurs alongside other stressors such as droughts, forest tent caterpillar outbreaks, and fungal pathogens.

DID YOU KNOW?

Gypsy Moths arrived in North America as a result of a misguided attempt to create a domestic silk industry. Its presence was met with alarm as the impact of defoliation became apparent. The Asian gypsy moth, first found in the Vancouver area in the spring of 1991, was unknowingly brought into Canada on Soviet freighters.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1 - IDENTIFY

The Gypsy Moth has four life stages: egg, caterpillar, pupa, and moth.

Egg masses are tan in colour, between the size of a dime and toonie and can be found on tree trunks, under bark, the outsides of buildings, cars, on patio furniture, on tents, and trailers, etc.

Caterpillars start off small (about 2mm) and molt three to four times, growing larger each time. By the time they reach their last molt, caterpillars can be 5-6cm long. They are dark and hairy, with five blue and red dot pairs on the back.

Adult female moths are white with dark markings and cannot fly.

Adult male moths are brown with dark markings, large feathery antennae and can fly.

2 - MONITOR & PROTECT

Monitor for defoliation and egg masses throughout the seasons. Inspect outdoor equipment, trailers and vehicles before moving from a regulated area to an un-infested area and always buy and burn local firewood.

Plant multiple types of tree species with plenty of space between them. This will help create a more resilient forest, which protects trees from insects and diseases.

Keep your trees healthy: water them, including into the fall and protect the roots.

3 - REMOVE

Early September to beginning of May:

(For small scale, ornamental or yard trees) egg masses should be removed by hand from trees to reduce infestation. Use a scraper to carefully remove the masses off the tree trunks, branches, and outdoor equipment. After removal, dispose of masses in a soap and hot water mix for 48 hours.

May to mid-August: (For small scale, ornamental or yard trees) install burlap skirts around tree trunks. Tie a string around the middle and fold the top portion of burlap down - caterpillars will find shelter under the burlap. Check it daily, remove and destroy. (Caution: Gypsy moths have long hairs that can cause skin irritation or allergic reactions for some people. For Safety, use gloves). For larger private woodlots, owners have the option to spray with BTK by a registered pesticide application company.

End of June to mid-August: Collect, crush, or otherwise destroy pupae/cocoons when you see them.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email the Ministry of Natural Resources:

info.mnrfscience@ontario.ca

Or visit their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ONresources

REGISTERED PESTICIDE COMPANIES:

Guardian Tree Systems

1701 Michigan Line, Sarnia ON
Tel: 519-337-9563
www.guardiantreesystems.com

Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada Ltd.

641 Wright St, Strathroy, ON
Tel: 519-245-1019
www.daveytree.ca

Ontario Centre for Forest Defoliator Control

e-mail: info@ocfdc.com
Tel: 226-996-9701
www.OCFDC.com

General Airspray Limited

6375 Airport Drive, Lucan ON
Office: 519-227-4091 | Paul Hodgins Cell: 519-319-3932 | David Hodgins Cell: 519-868-4267