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Department of Agriculture
Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid Number 1329

Don't Move Gypsy Moth

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Don't Move an Old Pest to a New Neighborhood

Planning to move from a State infested with gypsy moth to one that is not infested? You need to know about a regulation intended to prevent the interstate spread of this pest.

All outdoor household items moved from high risk areas into or through nonregulated areas must be free of gypsy moth life stages—eggs, caterpillars, pupae, and adults. This means that you, the owner of the items about to be moved, are responsible for making sure you are not moving a serious tree pest along with your outdoor household articles.

If you live in areas where the gypsy moth is prevalent, you know the damage the leaf-eating caterpillars can cause. They defoliate trees and shrubs, giving summer scenes a barren winter look. Gypsy moths have defoliated up to 13 million acres of trees in one season. They cause untold annoyance—crawling on homes, littering lawn furniture and pools, and making outdoor activities miserable. Treatments to control gypsy moth can run to \$20 or more per property, whether you pay for the job directly or the cost is added to your property tax.

Regulation is needed to prevent the spread of gypsy moths hitchhiking on outdoor household articles from infested areas. Areas representing a risk are indicated on the map distributed with this publication.

Recent studies show that most new isolated infestations of the gypsy moth were started from egg masses transported on outdoor household articles—garbage cans, lawn furniture, children's toys—any item accessible to the female moth at egg laying time.

People glad to be leaving the annoyance and cost of living with the gypsy moth unintentionally took them along as egg masses—to hatch and spread far from their old neighborhood. The gypsy moth, in short, will not be a welcome addition to your new neighborhood.

You can make sure you aren't a gypsy moth "carrier" by thoroughly inspecting the outdoor household articles you plan to move, or by hiring a USDA-trained commercial expert to do the inspection for you. Either way, *you* are the key to helping prevent the spread of the gypsy moth. Don't be responsible for moving an old pest to a new neighborhood.



In its "moth" stage, the insect does little harm, but it sets the stage for future damage by laying a mass of up to a thousand eggs that hatch next year.



Gypsy moth caterpillars survive in high numbers because in North America, unlike Europe, they don't have many natural enemies.

Two Ways to Inspect for Gypsy Moth

You are responsible for making sure your outdoor items don't move the gypsy moth—how you do this is your decision. If you feel capable of detecting gypsy moth life stages, you may decide to inspect your outdoor household articles yourself, particularly if you plan to move only a few outdoor items. (This publication will help you.)

If you are not so inclined, you may pay a USDA-trained certified pesticide applicator to inspect the articles you plan to move. Participating applicators may identify themselves in their advertising. You also may contact one of the information sources listed in this publication for a list of USDA-trained pesticide applicators participating in the program.

Federal officials with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will work with the States in monitoring anyone who moves outdoor household articles out of infested areas. People moving will be checked to see if they have a document certifying that their outdoor household articles have been treated or are free of gypsy moth. If they don't have a certificate, their outdoor household articles may be checked at destination to see if they are free of the pest.



When inspecting outdoor household articles, check inside tubular articles like lawn furniture, ladders, toys and swing sets. Probe the tubes or flush them with hot water or another killing agent.

Professional Inspection

Participating applicators are trained to inspect your items and treat them if necessary. They will be authorized to issue you a certificate stating that your outdoor household items are free of gypsy moth. This certificate will satisfy the requirements of all uninfested States and will relieve you of liability should your items be inspected and found to contain gypsy moth. The certificate must be issued within 5 days of your departure.

Participating certified pesticide applicators are licensed to treat heavily infested items or inaccessible spaces with registered pesticides during specific periods of the gypsy moth life cycle.

Do-It-Yourself Inspection

If you decide to do the inspecting yourself, include anything accessible to a gypsy moth. Inspect any article left outdoors, stored in areas open to the outside, or stored indoors but used outdoors.

The check list distributed with this brochure lists common outdoor household articles that could carry gypsy moths. Carefully examine each article and check it off the list.

Be sure to enter the date and place inspected and sign at the bottom. This will be your official certificate of self-inspection. Be sure the list is with the paperwork accompanying your move.

How to Recognize Gypsy Moth Life Stages

If you're inspecting outdoor articles, you need to be able to identify gypsy moth life stages—especially the egg mass. The photographs in this publication will help you recognize them and indicate when they may be present. Knowing the life stages of the gypsy moth will also help.

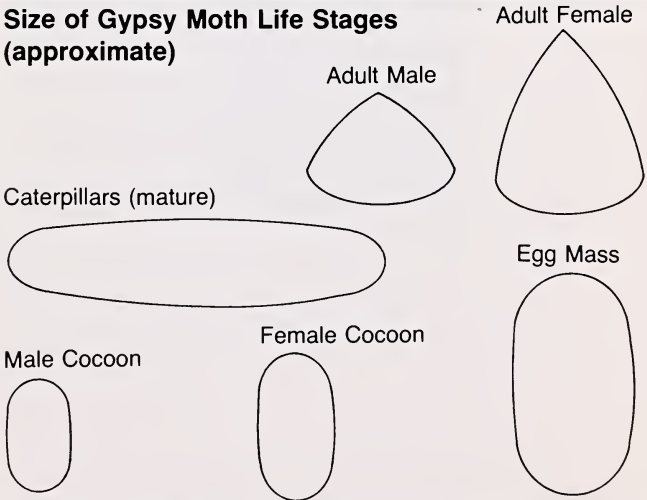
The gypsy moth goes through four stages of development—egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (cocoon), and moth. It has one generation a year. Overwintering egg masses are attached to trees, stones, walls, logs, and other outdoor objects, including outdoor household articles. Each gypsy moth egg mass contains up to 1,000 eggs and is covered with buff or yellowish hairs from the abdomen of the female. The velvety egg masses average about 1-1/2 inches long and about three-fourths of an inch wide, but may be as small as a dime in some situations.

In Southern States, eggs begin hatching in late March. Hatch starts later farther north—early May in the northernmost States. The grayish, hairy caterpillars are easy to identify when about half-grown by pairs of red and blue dots on their backs. Mature caterpillars are from 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 inches long.

Caterpillars stop feeding when they enter the pupal or "cocoon" stage, ranging from April in the Southern States to early July in the Northern States, varying with weather and climate. They emerge from their dark-brown pupal cases as adult moths 10 to 14 days later. Males have grayish-brown wings and a 1-1/2-inch wingspread. Female moths, which cannot fly, are white with a wingspread similar to that of the male.

The pests do not feed in the moth stage, but only mate and lay eggs. Depending on weather and location, eggs are laid between July and September.

Size of Gypsy Moth Life Stages (approximate)





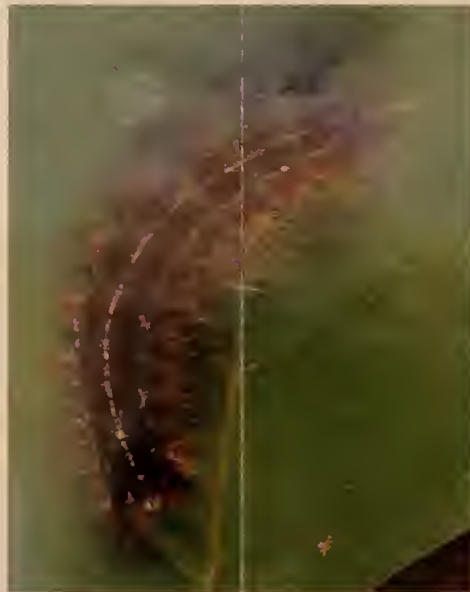
Gypsy moth adult female with egg mass.



Gypsy moth adult male.



Gypsy moth adult female.



Gypsy moth caterpillar.



Egg mass.



Gypsy moth pupa (cocoon).

Self-Inspection Check List.

Important: Make Sure This Check List Goes With Your Goods When You Move.

Check List and Record of Your
Do-It-Yourself Inspection

Date _____

Place Inspected _____

Recreational or Camping Items

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Campers | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball backboards | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice chests | <input type="checkbox"/> Tents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boats | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Waders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat trailers | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports equipment | |

Household Items

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioners | <input type="checkbox"/> Ladders | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash cans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrels | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor thermometers | <input type="checkbox"/> TV antennae |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard and wooden boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets of plastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Used refrigerators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothespin bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing machines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds | <input type="checkbox"/> Water hoses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House plants taken outside during the summer | <input type="checkbox"/> Storm and screen doors and windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather vanes |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tanks for propane and oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Window awnings |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Building Materials

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bricks | <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber | <input type="checkbox"/> Water pipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cinder blocks | <input type="checkbox"/> Roofing materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Welding equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cement mixing tubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer pipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Workbenches |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Yard and Garden Items

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal houses | <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizer spreaders | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowblowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbecue grills | <input type="checkbox"/> Flagpoles | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdbaths | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tillers | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdfeeders | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawnmowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and shrubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdhouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailboxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Trellis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buglights | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard decorations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carts | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch or patio furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coldframes | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs and posts | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driftwood | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing | | |

Children's Playthings

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleds | <input type="checkbox"/> Tire swings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playhouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools | <input type="checkbox"/> Wagons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandboxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Swing sets | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Other Items

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car body parts | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars and trucks that are not driven regularly | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant nursery items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car ramps | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm items | <input type="checkbox"/> Stored tires (snow tires) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Signature _____



Gypsy moths often hide their egg masses in hard-to-find places. Anything accessible to a gypsy moth caterpillar should be carefully searched.



Be sure to check items that are stored in areas accessible to gypsy moths—garages, storage sheds and under porches or tarps.

What to Do If You Find Gypsy Moth Life Stages

An effective way to dispose of gypsy moth life stages is to remove them by hand. Scrape egg masses from their location with a putty knife or similar flat-edged tool. Dispose of them in a container of hot water, household bleach, ammonia, or kerosene. Similarly, remove other life stages and kill them in an appropriate killing agent.

Gypsy moth hairs, found attached to all life stages, can cause people, who are allergic to them, to have skin rashes or respiratory reactions. If necessary, wear gloves, protective clothing, and a dust mask.

Once you have completed your inspection, protect the outdoor items you intend to move from reinfestation by caterpillars or egg-laying adults.

Remember, you are the key to preventing the interstate spread of gypsy moth on outdoor household articles. Consider employing a trained professional to inspect your regulated articles. Do a good job if you elect to inspect your articles yourself. You may elect to abandon articles if they are heavily infested and of little value to you. Do your part to prevent the spread of this pest.

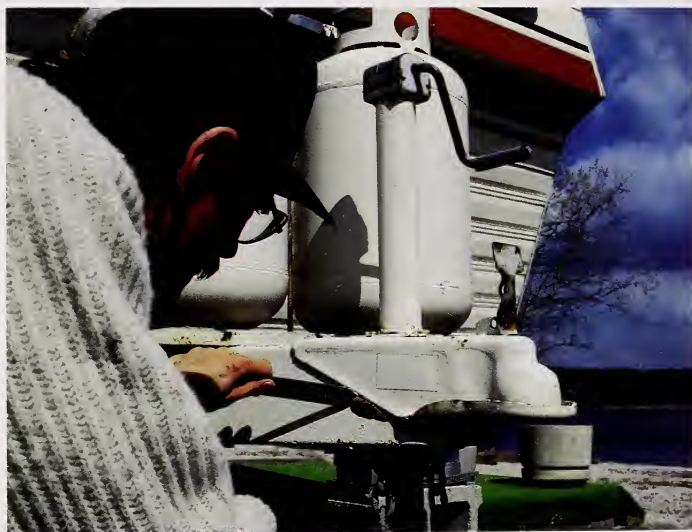


If you find gypsy moth egg masses, scrape them into a container of hot water, household bleach, ammonia, or kerosene.

Additional Information

If you need additional information about the Federal regulations on moving outdoor household articles, contact one of the following:

- Your State's regulatory officials, usually listed under your State's Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection or Regulatory Division in the State Government section of your telephone directory.
- A Federal regulatory official, listed in the Federal Government section of your telephone directory under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine.
- Your county's Agricultural Extension agent, listed in the Federal Government section of your telephone directory under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Extension Service.
- A local commercial moving company. Movers have been cooperating with USDA to be sure that the Federal regulations are followed.



Many items can be easily freed of gypsy moth life stages. Others, like the insides of vehicle wheels, could be very difficult to properly inspect.



This symbol represents the program to prevent the spread of gypsy moth on outdoor household articles. Its use is being encouraged by those cooperating with USDA's efforts—including USDA-trained qualified, certified pesticide applicators (often listed under "Pest Control Operators" in the telephone directory). This symbol will help you identify sources of information and qualified inspectors.

Revised September 1990