

EGG MASSES



- * Gypsy moth spread into uninfested areas is often because someone unknowingly moves an egg mass
- * Female gypsy moths lay their eggs in large clumps called egg masses. Each egg mass is approximately 1½ inches long and can contain between 500-1,000 eggs.
- * Female gypsy moths cover their egg masses with a layer of velvety, buff-colored hair from their bodies.
- * Gypsy moth females prefer to deposit their eggs in hidden places. Egg masses are commonly found in cracks in tree bark, in log piles, rock walls, undersides of outdoor furniture, recreational equipment and on the rims of vehicle tires.

LARVAL IDENTIFICATION

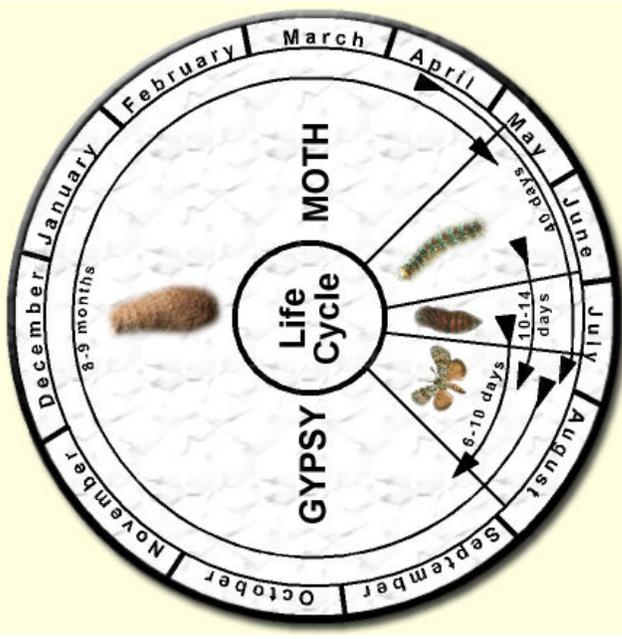


- * 5 pairs of blue spots followed by 6 pair of red spots along the back
- * Hairy
- * Caterpillars do NOT build nests or webs on trees
- * Newly hatched caterpillars are ½ inch long; 2 inches long when fully grown
- * Caterpillars feed from late April to early June

PUPA



- * Caterpillars stop feeding in June and enter the pupal stage
- * The pupal stage lasts from 10 to 14 days
- * Gypsy moth pupae are covered with brown, tear-drop shaped protective shells about 1-2 inches long
- * Pupae are covered with a few hairs



The gypsy moth has four life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (cocoon) and adult. The gypsy moth's body shape and behavior are very different for each life stage. There is one generation per year.

ADULT IDENTIFICATION



- * Female is light colored and does NOT fly
- * Male is brownish colored and is capable of flight
- * Male has feathery antennae

IMPORTANCE OF GYPSY MOTH

The gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, is a tree defoliator and a serious threat to forest, shade and ornamental trees. Since its introduction into Massachusetts in 1869 from its native home in Europe, it has spread throughout the Northeastern United States infesting and defoliating millions of acres. The caterpillar stage is responsible for the damage the pest causes, eating the leaves of trees in the spring. As they grow and reach maturity, the individual caterpillars consume tremendous amounts of leaf material per day. In outbreak situations, the caterpillars are capable of completely stripping the leaves off host trees (oaks are a preferred host) over wide geographic areas. Repeated defoliation leads to tree stress and may cause death of the tree.

The gypsy moth is **NOT** established in Kentucky, although established populations are close to our border in Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. To monitor for this pest, The University of Kentucky Department of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture and the Kentucky Division of Forestry place over 10,000 traps annually throughout Kentucky. These traps are triangular in shape and may be green, red/orange, or brown in color. Inside each trap is a small strip that contains a synthetic sex pheromone which lures the adult male moth into the trap. The focus of this work is to make early detections of low-level populations that might be in Kentucky.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GYPSY MOTH MAY BE FOUND ON THESE WEBSITES:

www.kyStateEnt.org

www.gmsts.org

www.fs.fed.us/ne/morgantown/4557/gmoth

www.entm.purdue.edu/GM

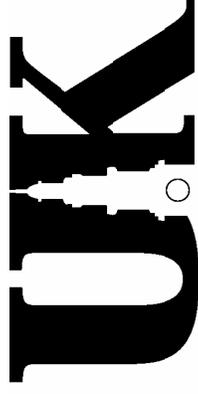
www.aphis.usda.gov

lucas.osu.edu/gm/gmhome.htm

ceris.purdue.edu/napis/pests/egm

www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/profiles/eurogypsmoth.shtml

Pictures in this publication are from the "Indiana Gypsy Moth Information From Purdue Extension" website



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PESTS OF CONCERN TO KENTUCKY: EUROPEAN GYPSY MOTH



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