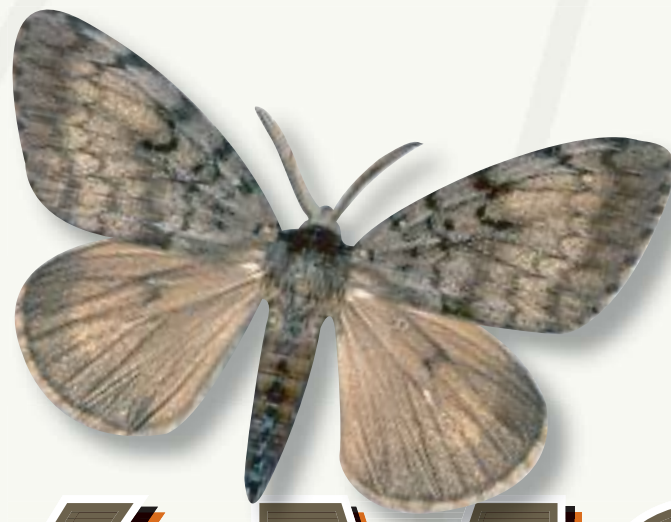


# WHAT IS A GYPSY MOTH?



**THE GYPSY MOTH** is an invasive leaf-eating insect imported from Europe in a failed attempt to breed a hardier silk worm. Instead, the caterpillars escaped into the trees. With very few natural enemies and an appetite for over 300 different woody species, the gypsy moth has established itself throughout the northeastern U.S. It now ranks among the most destructive pests to trees and shrubs in the country.

## DON'T GIVE GYPSY MOTH A FREE RIDE

- Inspect all outdoor articles and vehicles for life stages
- Remove and destroy any "hitchhikers" before returning to Minnesota from a quarantined county.



- Counties under federal quarantine for gypsy moth are located throughout the northeastern U.S. and extend into Wisconsin

## LIFE STAGES

### EGG MASS

- Female lays one fuzzy, buff colored egg mass
- Irregularly shaped about the size of a quarter
- Contains 500 - 1000 eggs
- Laid on any available outdoor surface in late summer
- Remains dormant throughout winter and hatches the following spring



### LARVA (CATERPILLAR)

- Can grow up to 2½" in length
- Extremely damaging to trees at this stage
- Has 5 pairs of blue spots and 6 pairs of red spots
- Extremely damaging to trees at this stage
- Eats up to 3 square feet of leaves in its lifetime
- Feeds for 5 - 6 weeks during late spring - midsummer



### PUPA (COCOON)

- Size ranges from ¾" - 1½"
- Immobile stage when caterpillar develops into an adult moth
- Dark reddish-brown



- Tough, leathery appearance
- Can be found mid - late summer

### ADULT (MALE MOTH)

- Wingspan ranges from ¾" - 1½"
- Feathery antennae
- Jagged bands on forewings and comma markings on underside
- Flies in the late afternoon and are not attracted to light
- Emerge in mid - late summer



### ADULT (FEMALE MOTH)

- Wingspan ranges from 1-2"
- White with brown jagged marks on wings
- CANNOT FLY due to large abdomen
- Produces one egg mass and dies
- Emerge in mid - late summer



## IF YOU FIND A GYPSY MOTH LIFE STAGE:

- **Note the exact location** • **Take a digital photo if possible**
- **Immediately call the "Arrest the Pest" Hotline 651-201-6684 (metro) 1-888-545-6684 (toll free)**



**YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR FORESTS**