

Checklist

Wipe 'em off. Wipe 'em out!

Before leaving infested areas, inspect all outdoor articles for gypsy moth life stages. Use the checklist provided below. This is not only a good practice, but it is required by law.



Campers

- ✓ Backpacks
- ✓ Barbecue grills, propane tanks
- ✓ Bicycles, bikecarts, wagons
- ✓ Boats, canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, trailers
- ✓ Coolers (ice chests), lawn chairs
- ✓ Firewood
- ✓ Fishing tackle boxes, waders or boots
- ✓ Kids toys (like trucks or sand molds)
- ✓ Pet carriers
- ✓ Sports equipment
- ✓ Table cloths, tarps
- ✓ Tents, campers, RV's
- ✓ Vehicles, motorcycles
- ✓ Wash tubs/pails, water hoses

Seasonal Visitors

- ✓ Awning, fencing
- ✓ Birdbaths, bird feeders, bug lights
- ✓ Lawn decorations, lawnmowers, garden tillers
- ✓ Picnic tables, patio furniture, decking
- ✓ Screen tents
- ✓ Storage sheds
- ✓ Swing sets, swimming pools, sandboxes
- ✓ Trash cans
- ✓ Trees, shrubs, plants, plant containers
- ✓ Vehicles, ATVs, golf carts, RVs
- ✓ Wheelbarrows, carts, trailers



Gypsy moth caterpillars can eat all the leaves in the canopy of a forest.

You can help ...

Do not bring gypsy moths home to your backyard!

Report suspect gypsy moth life stages to:



mda.state.mn.us/arrestthepest

888-545-6684



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

What You Need to Know When Visiting a Gypsy Moth Quarantined Area

Gypsy moths are one of the most destructive pests of trees and shrubs to ever be introduced into the United States. **Now they are here in Minnesota's Cook and Lake Counties!**

Don't move gypsy moth checklist inside

Gypsy moth caterpillars love to eat. Their menu includes over 300 different species of trees and shrubs. The caterpillars will defoliate and weaken trees in our forests and cities. Repeated defoliation can kill trees already stressed by drought, diseases or other pests.

As of 2014, the main gypsy moth population front in the United States extends into northeastern Minnesota and south through western Wisconsin. Cook and Lake Counties in Minnesota's Arrowhead Region are quarantined for gypsy moth.



We need your help to stop this insect from spreading!

Gypsy moths can hitch a ride on firewood or any outdoor items within its reach. Without knowing, you could spread them great distances.

Make sure you do not bring them home to your backyard by following these instructions when leaving a gypsy moth-infested area:



- Do not move firewood! Gypsy moths and other insects and diseases are easily transported to new locations on firewood. Never assume wood that “looks safe” is ok to move. It is next to impossible to detect every pest.
- Inspect all items that have been outdoors including campers, boats, trailers, lawn furniture, BBQ grills, tents and backpacks.
- Remove egg masses or other life stages by scraping them off with a putty knife, stiff brush or similar hand tool. Dispose of the egg masses or other life stages in a container of hot, soapy water or place them in a plastic bag, seal it, and set it in the sun.



Egg masses found on picnic table.

- Report suspect gypsy moths to: mda.state.mn.us/arrestthepest
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What to look for

The gypsy moth is an insect that goes through four stages of development: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (cocoon), and adult (moth). It has one generation per year. In the late summer, female moths attach egg masses to trees, stones, walls, firewood or other outdoor objects including camping gear. It is the egg mass stage that is most commonly transported to new areas by humans, causing the spread of gypsy moth.

Egg mass

Females lay one fuzzy, buff-colored egg mass on any available outdoor surface in late summer (August-October).

- Irregularly shaped, about the size of a quarter.
- Contains between 500-1,000 eggs.
- Remains in this stage throughout winter and hatches the following spring.



Egg mass with newly hatched caterpillars.

Caterpillar (larva)

- Has five pairs of blue spots and six pairs of rusty red spots.
- Can grow up to 2½” in length.
- Feeds for 5-6 weeks during late spring to mid summer (June-August).
- Like to hide in sheltered locations during the day.



Late stage caterpillar.



A mated female lays one egg mass just days after emerging from her pupa case. Three life stages can be found in close proximity to each other.

Pupa (cocoon)

- Dark reddish-brown immobile stage.
- Size ranges from ¾”-1½”.
- Can be found mid to late summer (July-September).
- Attach themselves to a vertical surface with strands of silk.



Adult (moth)

- Emerge in mid to late summer (August-October) and do not feed. Their sole purpose is to breed.

Male

- Brownish-grey appearance similar to many other local moths.
- Fly during the day and are not attracted to light.

Female

- CANNOT FLY due to large abdomen full of eggs.
- Cream with brown, jagged markings on wings.
- Wingspan ranges from 1”-2”.
- Produces one egg mass and dies.



Female moth laying an egg mass.