





Technical Bulletin for: Gypsy Moth

Lymantria dispar (Linnaeus) • Lepidoptera, *Lymantriidae* • LYMDIS



DISTRIBUTION	The Asian gypsy moth is native to southern Europe, northern Africa, central and southern Asia, and Japan. Introduced into Canada and the United States.
HOSTS	More than 500 host plants. Some of the most important include oak, cherry, white birch, maple, alder, willow, elm and trembling aspen.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Brown with darker brown patterns on wings (males), with a wingspan of 37-50 mm. Females are nearly white and slightly larger.
Larvae	Highly distinctive with two rows of large spots along the back usually arranged in five pairs of blue and six pairs of red from head to rear, about 2-3 mm long.
Eggs	Eggs are laid in a manila tear-drop shaped egg mass, 25-50 mm long containing 600-1000 eggs.
LIFE HISTORY	Larvae hatch in the spring. Male gypsy moth caterpillars go through five instars, while females go through six. Gypsy moths then move into pupation by transforming into a cocoon and spinning a thin web of silk around themselves. Upon completion of pupation, the gypsy moth splits the cocoon to emerge. The male emerges first, several days prior to emergence of the female. The female of the European gypsy moth is flightless. Once the female emerges, she is sexually mature, and almost immediately begins releasing sex pheromone to attract male moths.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	cis-7,8-Epoxy-2-methyloctadecane on a gray rubber septum. Lure longevity: Sixty (60) days.	
TRAP TO USE	Gypsy Moth Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Use two traps per square mile in urban areas and rural residential areas of 300 or more homes per square mile. Use at least one trap in each high-hazard site. High-hazard sites include campgrounds, recreational areas, mobile home and RV parks, state parks, federal parks and monuments. Contact your local forester for more information on forest management practices	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	High-risk forests can be harvested before outbreaks occur to prevent some economic loss. Thinning stands of medium to high quality can reduce the risk of major outbreak. Thinning to reduce the proportion of primary gypsy moth hosts can also reduce the frequency and intensity of defoliation. After defoliation has occurred, salvage logging can be carried out within 6 to 12 months of tree death to prevent complete economic loss and to advance regeneration.	

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