

Exotic pest

- Native to Europe and Asia.
- Introduced to North America in 1869.
- Now infests forests from Maine south to North Carolina and northwest through Wisconsin.
- Eastern Wisconsin is generally infested and counties are under a quarantine. For an updated map of quarantine counties in the U.S. visit www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis

Damage

- Caterpillars feed on leaves of up to 300 species of trees and shrubs, favoring oak, aspen and birch.
- Defoliate millions of acres annually in the United States.
- Defoliated trees grow a new set of leaves, but are weakened and may be killed by other pests.

Costs to Individuals

- Expense to homeowners for removal and replacement of dead trees.
- Potential decline in property values from tree loss.
- Allergic reactions to shed skins and droppings from caterpillars.
- Nuisance of having thousands of caterpillars in the backyard.

Costs to businesses

- Costs of inspections and treatments for nursery and Christmas tree growers, timber interests and paper companies shipping materials to non-infested areas.
- Lost tourism dollars.
- Environmental damage.

Life cycle

- Caterpillars emerge in mid-May to early June and begin feeding.
- In late June to mid-July they stop feeding and pupate, wrapping a cocoon-like shell around themselves.
- In mid-July to early August, adult moths emerge from pupae, mate and die.
- Eggs over-winter protected in a blanket of hair from the female moth's body.

Rapid spread

- Each female lays one egg mass containing between 500-1000 eggs.
- Gypsy moths thrive in many habitats because they feed on so many plant species.
- Because they are not native to North America, they have few natural enemies.
- Egg masses are often deposited on man made objects that carry them to new areas.

**Goals of Minnesota
cooperative gypsy
moth program**

- Delay establishment of gypsy moth in Minnesota through early detection and eradication for as long as is economically and ecologically feasible.
- To prevent this pest from becoming permanently established in Minnesota for 10-15 years.
- Members: Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA Forest Service and the University of Minnesota.