



© Mark D. Read

Gypsy Moth larvae



Foliage damage from Gypsy Moth larvae



For more information on Invasive Species and Gypsy Moths visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/gypsy-moths.html>

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/gypsy-moth/>

Visit our website at:
www.lanarkcounty.ca

LANARK COUNTY

99 Christie Lake Road
Perth, ON
K7H3C6

GYPSY MOTHS

(Lymantria dispar)

Destructive Pests: Best Management Practices



© Mark D. Read

(Male GM)

CAUTION: Skin rash may occur in relation to contact with gypsy moth hairs, silken threads, and skin during large-scale infestations. Although rare, there is a link to possible upper respiratory tract symptoms with exposure to airborne hairs.

LANARK COUNTY

- **Gypsy Moth larvae:** Later stage charcoal grey with double row of five blue and six red dots on its back.
- **Gypsy Moth female:** Larger than males, whiteish with darker zigzag marks. Nearly or actually flightless.
- **Gypsy Moth male:** Greyish-brown and can fly and survive about one week, mating with several different females.
- **Eggs:** Tan or buff-coloured egg masses. May be found on tree trunks or bark. About the size of a loonie and may contain 100 to 1000 eggs.



© E. Boysen

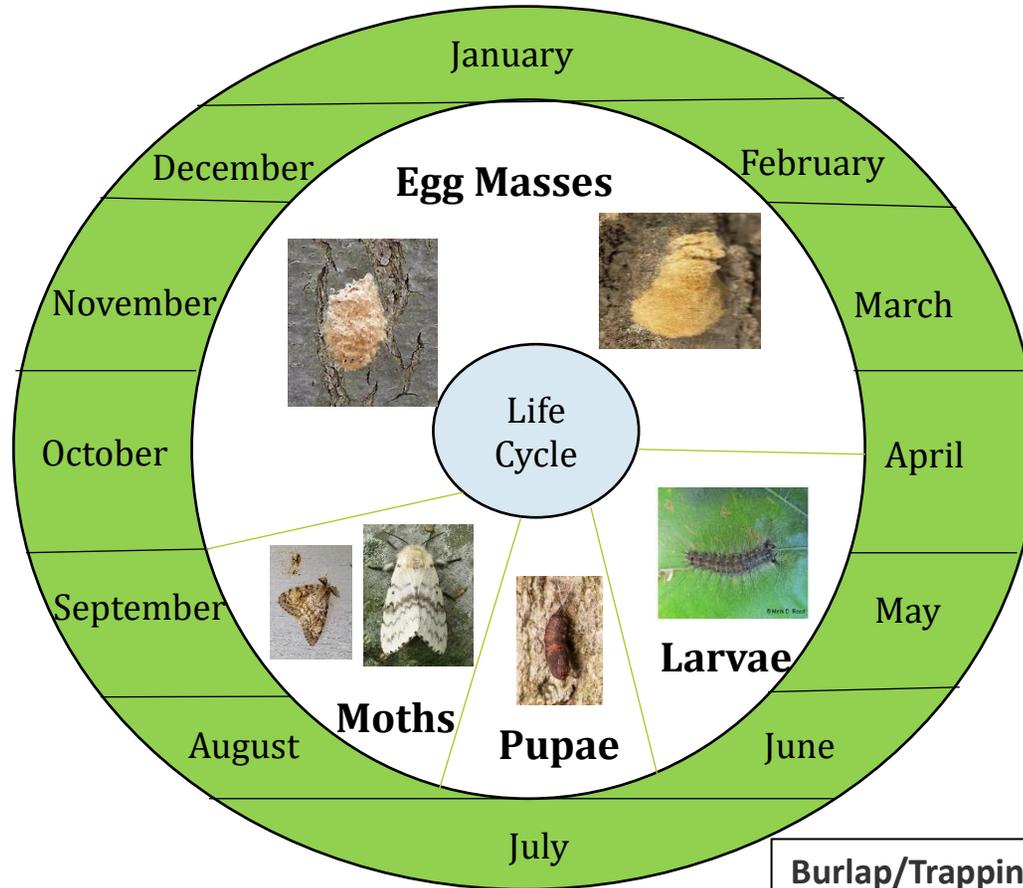
Female Gypsy Moths and Egg Masses

Attention: The long hairs of the caterpillar can cause skin irritation or allergic reactions in some people. To be safe, wear gloves when handling them.

Gypsy Moths are an invasive and destructive pest that pose a risk to leaves and overall tree life for both deciduous and coniferous species in Ontario.



Tree foliage after Gypsy Moth invasion.



Hand Removal
Egg Masses should be removed from trees from August-May, to reduce infestations in forthcoming years. Use a dormant oil or a scraper to carefully remove the masses off tree trunks, branches or outdoor equipment throughout all seasons. After removal dispose of masses in soap and water mixture or burn.

IMPACTS

Tree Health: During the larval stage, a single gypsy moth caterpillar can eat an average of one square metre of leaves.

Orchards : Trees may die or become so weakened that they are vulnerable to secondary infestations, ruining farm stock.

Biodiversity: The destruction of oaks affects forest wildlife, especially deer that depend on oak acorns for part of their diet.

Biological Control

To control high levels of Gypsy Moth Larvae you may use **BTK**, a biological insecticide, which is more effective on early stage larvae, and best applied at night when the caterpillars are feeding.

Aerial Spraying can be arranged, dependent on your municipality and infestation levels. This method is most effective during the spring months.

Burlap/Trapping

Caterpillars can be successfully trapped using burlap. Start by wrapping the 45cm wide strip of burlap around the tree at chest height. Tie a string around the centre and fold the top portion down to form a skirt, with the string acting as a belt . Pick off the caterpillars and squish/dispose of them.



MONITORING

Monitoring and removal of egg masses should be repeated throughout all seasons.