



*Gypsy Moth Larvae (caterpillar)*

- **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.
- **Gypsy Moth Male:** Greyish brown and can fly and survive about one week, mating with several different females.
- **Eggs:** Tan or buff-coloured hairs, and may be found on tree trunks or bark. About the size of a loonie and may contain 100 to 1000 eggs.



*Gypsy Moth Eggs.*



*Foliage damage from Gypsy Moth Larvae (Caterpillars)*



**Report a sighting:**

**Toll-free Invading Species Hotline at  
1-800-563-7711 or email  
[info@invadingspecies.com](mailto:info@invadingspecies.com)**

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

**For more information visit:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/gypsy-moths.html>**

Visit our web at:  
[www.lanarkcounty.ca](http://www.lanarkcounty.ca)

**LANARK  
COUNTY**

99 Christie Lake Road  
Perth, ON  
K7H3C6

# GYPSY MOTHS

(*Lymantria Dispar*)

*Destructive Pests: Best  
Management Practices*



**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.

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**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.


## IMPACTS



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



Fruit/ tree farming: 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.



**Hand Remove**  
(All seasons)



**Trap**

(May to September)



**Spray**

(May to Early June)



**Ariel Spray**

- Caterpillars and pupae can be **handpicked and crushed**. Remove as many as possible early in the season to avoid invasion. **Eggs** should be scrapped off tree trunks, furniture or equipment during all months and soaked in a soap and water mixture to ensure eradication.
- Caterpillars can be successfully **trapped** using burlap. To make a trap, see Gypsy Larvae Trap photo located below. The caterpillars will crawl under the burlap to escape the sun and become trapped. Later in the day, lift the burlap. Pick off the caterpillars and dispose of them.
- **A biological control (BTK describer below) is also available for purchase at hardware stores** to control high levels of Gypsy Moth Larvae. These are contact insecticides, which are more effective on early stage larvae, and best applied at night when the caterpillars are feeding.
- **Ariel Spraying** can be arranged dependent on your municipality and its infestation levels. This method is best effective in Spring months. **Pesticide used to control is under *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk)**, a selective biological insecticide that controls caterpillars. The caterpillar stops feeding soon after and dies within five days.

## Gypsy Larvae (Caterpillar) Trap



### TRAPPING METHOD:

Start by wrapping a 45-cm (roughly 17-inch) wide strip of burlap around the tree trunk at chest height. Tie a string around the centre of the burlap and fold the upper portion down to form a skirt, with the string acting as a belt.

## EGG ERADICATION

The eggs hatch into caterpillars when tree buds begin to open. It is important to control gypsy moth infestations early.

Eggs should be scrapped off trees and eradicated, to prevent additional hatching the following Spring.

Overall, attempt to eradicate gypsy moths at any stage of development but especially during egg stage.

## MONITORING

Monitoring should be repeated throughout the season to ensure eradication.