



## YOUR NEXT MOVE GYPSY MOTH-FREE



For more information on how you can move gypsy moth-free, go to:

[www.yourmovegypsymothfree.com](http://www.yourmovegypsymothfree.com)

**United States Department of Agriculture**

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid No. 2065

# SAVE A FOREST. KILL A FOREST. IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR NEXT MOVE.



*Linda J. Card, Maryland Department of Agriculture*

The gypsy moth is one of the most destructive pests of trees and shrubs to ever be introduced into the United States. Gorging themselves on the leaves of up to 300 host species, gypsy moth caterpillars defoliate and weaken the trees that make up our national forests and community landscapes. Those trees that are already suffering from drought, disease, or pests are especially vulnerable and may be killed by the gypsy moths' repeated defoliation. Before your next move, whether it's out of State or just across town, be sure to fully inspect household goods and help prevent the spread of gypsy moth to new areas.

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*Mark Robinson, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org*

Here you can see the effect of the gypsy moth on what used to be a dense forest.

# THE PROBLEM

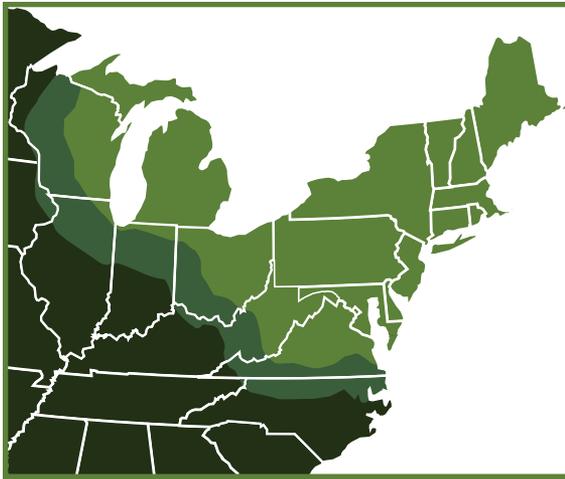
The gypsy moth has infested many States in the northeast United States, resulting in massive defoliation of the regions' precious trees. If you live where the gypsy moth is prevalent, you know the damage this insect can cause. The leaf-eating caterpillars devour the leaves of many hardwood trees and shrubs, giving summer scenes a barren, wintry look. Gypsy moth larvae have been known to defoliate up to 13 million acres of trees in one season, damaging local ecosystems and killing trees outright. The larvae also crawl on homes, litter lawn furniture and pools, and make outdoor activities hard to enjoy.



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 a year. During the summer months, female moths attach egg masses to trees, stones, walls, logs, and other outdoor objects, including household items. Each egg mass contains up to 1,000 eggs and is covered with buff or yellowish “hairs.” The velvety egg masses are on average 1 1/2 inches long and three-fourths of an inch wide. After eggs hatch in the spring, the caterpillars feed voraciously and grow to 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches in length.

The gypsy moth often travels into non-infested areas when people moving from an infested State transport outdoor furniture or equipment with gypsy moth egg sacs attached.

# AFFECTED AREAS



 **GENERALLY  
INFESTED AREA**

 **POTENTIALLY  
INFESTED AREA**

 **UNAFFECTED  
AREAS**

The areas infested with gypsy moth change each year. You can find a map of the current regulated areas at [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/gypsy\\_moth/downloads/gypmoth.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gypsy_moth/downloads/gypmoth.pdf).

# THE SOLUTION

Helping to prevent the spread of gypsy moth is easy. Simply inspect household articles—such as outdoor furniture, lawn equipment, or children's outside toys—for gypsy moth egg sacs.

Inspecting household articles, however, goes beyond being a good neighbor; **it is required by law**. USDA requires anyone moving from a State infested with the gypsy moth to a non-infested State to provide an official certificate of inspection of all common outdoor household articles that could carry the gypsy moth. To meet the requirements, you can perform a self-inspection of household goods or you may pay a USDA-certified pesticide applicator to inspect the articles you plan to move. The driver of your moving van must keep this certificate on hand during the move in case it is requested at any point during the trip.

# INSPECTION OPTIONS

## Self-Inspection

If you decide to do the gypsy moth inspection yourself, include anything accessible to the insect. Inspect any article left outdoors, stored in areas open to the outside, or stored indoors but used outside. Use the checklist provided to facilitate the inspection.

Follow these simple steps for gypsy moth inspection:

1. Carefully examine each article.
2. Remove and destroy any life stages found.
3. Check the item off the list.
4. Enter the date and place inspected.
5. Sign at the bottom.



*Ann Czaplewski, USDA*

If you inspect for gypsy moths on your own, make sure to thoroughly check all outdoor household articles for egg masses and remove and destroy them.

This completed and signed checklist will be your official certificate of self-inspection. This certificate should be included with the paperwork accompanying your move and given to the driver of the moving van.

If you are moving between April 1 and August 31, when female moths lay eggs and the caterpillars spread, you should inspect your articles on moving day if at all possible. However, if you complete your inspection before moving day, you should

protect the articles from any further possibility of infestation by:

- Sealing them with tarpaulin or plastic bags,
- Packing them immediately into a moving van or truck and keeping the doors closed or covered, or
- Storing them indoors.

Disposable plastic bags will safeguard your articles for several days before a move.

On moving day, simply remove the bags and leave them behind.

# INSPECTION OPTIONS

## Destroying Life Stages of Gypsy Moth

An effective way to dispose of gypsy moth life stages is to remove them by hand. Scrape egg masses from their locations with a putty knife, stiff brush, or similar hand tool. Dispose of egg masses and 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.



*Ann Czapiewski, USDA*



*Ann Czapiewski, USDA*

Gypsy moth egg masses can be found on outdoor equipment and tools that sit outside. Inspect equipment and tools for gypsy moth egg masses before a move.

## Professional Inspection

Participating State-licensed pesticide applicators are trained to inspect your household items and treat heavily infested articles or inaccessible spaces with registered pesticides if necessary. These persons are also authorized to issue you a certificate stating that your outdoor household items are free of gypsy moth. A certificate must always accompany outdoor household items in transit. This certificate will satisfy the requirements of all non-infested States and will relieve you of liability should your items be re-inspected by a State official in the destination State and be found to harbor gypsy moth.

You may find pesticide applicators that participate in the program through local advertising.

# CHECKLIST

**IMPORTANT:** Make sure this checklist goes with your household goods when you move!

Checklist and Record of Your Self-Inspection

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Property address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recreational or Camping Items

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice chests            | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball backboards | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tents           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles              | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor homes           | <input type="checkbox"/> Waders or boots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boats                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat trailers         | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports equipment      |  |

## Household Items

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioners                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Ladders                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Tanks for propane and oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrels  | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor doormats               | <input type="checkbox"/> Television antennas       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard and wooden boxes                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor thermometers           | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash cans                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline poles                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Refrigerators                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing machines          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothespin bags                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets of plastic              | <input type="checkbox"/> Water hoses               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empty plant containers                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather vanes             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Window awnings            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House plants (taken outside during the summer) | <input type="checkbox"/> Storm/screen doors and windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____              |

## Building Materials

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bricks             | <input type="checkbox"/> Roofing materials   | <input type="checkbox"/> Welding equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cinder blocks      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer pipes         | <input type="checkbox"/> Workbenches       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cement mixing tubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools and toolboxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber             | <input type="checkbox"/> Water pipes         |  |

## Yard and Garden Items

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal houses (doghouses, rabbit hutches, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizer spreaders     | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbecue grills                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Flagpoles                | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdbaths                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tillers           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tractors and trailers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird feeders                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tools             | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees, shrubs, and plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird houses                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawnmowers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Trellises                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bug lights                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailboxes                | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carts   | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic tables            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard decorations          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coldframes                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch or patio furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driftwood                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs and posts          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowblowers              |  |

## Children's Playthings

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles, tricycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleds, toboggans | <input type="checkbox"/> Wagons   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playhouses          | <input type="checkbox"/> Swingsets        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other outside toys (like trucks or sand molds) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandboxes           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tire swings      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                   |

## Other Items

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cars or trucks | <input type="checkbox"/> Car ramps       | <input type="checkbox"/> Stored tires (snow tires) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car parts      | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm implements | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____              |

Please inspect anything that was stored outside!

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

(If the inspection was done by a commercial inspection company, provide the name of the firm and its phone number.)



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