

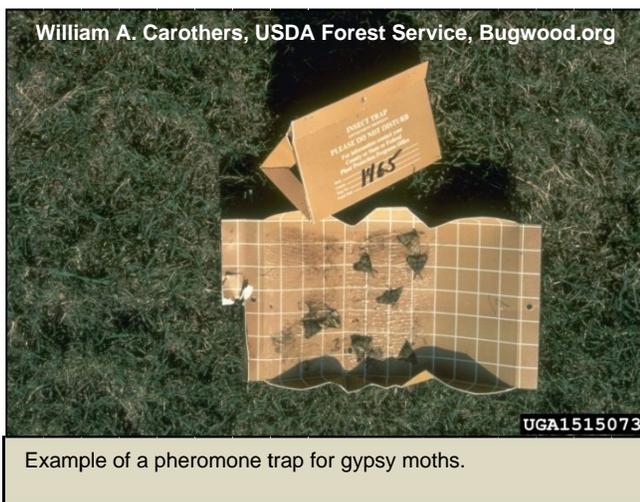
How can I manage gypsy moth populations around my yard?

- Small, isolated populations of gypsy moths can be managed by non-chemical control measures such as commercial double-sided sticky tape, or wrapping a piece of burlap cloth around the trunk. The double stick tape will prevent the daily migration of the caterpillars. Burlap cloths can also be tied around the tree trunk to provide shelter for the caterpillars as they migrate up and down the tree. The burlap cloths can then be removed daily to kill the caterpillars.
- You can also destroy the egg masses. Look for the tan colored masses on or under tree limbs and trunks, wood piles, buildings, vehicles, trailers, recreational equipment and any other sheltered locations outdoors. You can use a tool like a paint scraper to remove them. Make sure the masses are crushed, simply picking the egg masses off and dropping them on the ground will not kill them. Wear gloves when handling the egg masses because they are covered with hairs which may cause an allergic reaction.
- Healthy plants have a better chance of survival after being defoliated, so fertilizing, watering and mulching trees and shrubs that have been fed upon by gypsy moths may help with the plants' recovery.
- Commercially available attractants are also available for purchase like the one seen on the left. These attractants include bait that mimics the chemicals or "pheromones" released by the female moths. The flightless females release pheromones to attract male moths to fertilize the female's eggs. These traps confuse the males and lure them into a trap from which they cannot escape. By reducing the population of male gypsy moths, less viable eggs should be available for the following year.



How can I keep gypsy moths from spreading?

Gypsy moths were named for their ability to "hitchhike" to new locations on objects. Gypsy moths are introduced to new areas when equipment, cargo, household goods and privately owned vehicles are infested with attached egg cases or pupae and then are transported to new areas. For the military it is important to inspect equipment or any household goods during a permanent/temporary change of duty station (PCS/TDY) that involves moving from an area of the country with gypsy moths, (especially the northeast) to areas without gypsy moths.



What can I do if I have a heavy infestation of gypsy moths?

You can contact your installation's pest control office or your local state extension agent for more information. During years of heavy outbreaks, gypsy moth caterpillars can cause widespread damage and their populations cannot be managed at the individual level.