

New name, familiar pest: Preparing
for *Lymantria dispar* (formerly known
as Gypsy moth)



Susie Iott

Invasive Species Program Specialist

Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Tips and Tricks for landowners

Tips to help stressed trees cope with defoliation

- What might be a stressed tree?
 - Old, declining trees
 - Recently planted trees
 - Damaged or diseased trees
- What can you do to help your stressed tree?
 - Best thing you can do is water yard trees during hot dry spells



Things you can do to reduce the nuisance

Tricks to help protect your trees and keep back the nuisance from your everyday lives

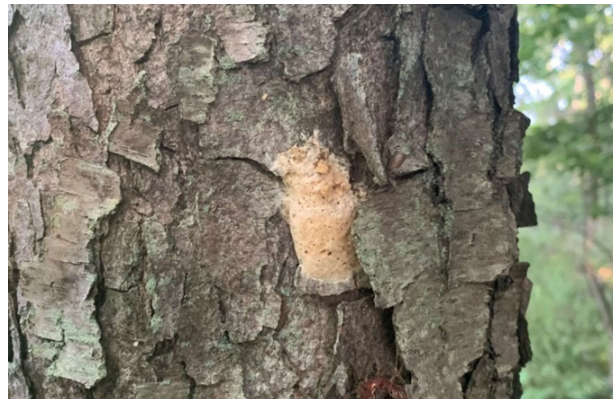
- Sticky band around select trees (can also use duct tape)
 - Most effective against smaller caterpillars
 - May need to be replaced
- Burlap Strip
 - Less messy than sticky bands
 - Effective against all caterpillar sizes
 - Have to revisit and scrap off caterpillars into a bucket of soapy water



Things you can do to reduce the nuisance

Destroy Egg masses

- Scrapping egg masses into a bucket of soapy water or burning them
- Scrapping egg masses onto the ground will not kill eggs
- Roughly 200-1000 eggs are in each healthy egg mass
- No need to scrap old egg masses
- Don't scrape egg masses until late fall – let the egg parasitoids complete development and emerge.



Things you can do to reduce the nuisance

Spray Egg Masses

- Spray with horticultural oil or soybean oil, or a mix of soybean oil and soapy water (dish soap).
- Soapy water alone won't kill eggs if applied as a spray.



Things you can do to reduce the nuisance

Spray yourself or hire an arborist

- Use a Btk product, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*
- Spray when caterpillars are <1 inch long
 - Mid to Late May
 - 80% effective
 - Non-toxic
 - Mitigates non-target impacts
- Can use a powerwasher to get into larger trees



City of Toronto

Btk Aerial Sprays



- Aerial Sprays can be beneficial for residential areas looking to keep costs down. Sprays need to go on while larvae are 1st and 2nd instars.
- Areas should be evaluated in the fall by conducting egg mass surveys to determine if aerial spraying is needed
- Hire properly licensed and commercially certified pesticide applicators. A list of Michigan businesses licensed to apply pesticides is available online at Michigan.gov/MDARDPABL
- Properly follow the label of the pesticide “the label is the law”

What's being done to combat spongy moth in Michigan?

- Nucleopolyhedrosis Virus (NPV)
 - Is always present in spongy moth populations in North America – not introduced
 - Generally, NPV only causes high levels of caterpillar mortality when population densities are high



What's being done to combat spongy moth in Michigan?

- *Entomophaga maimaiga*
 - Fungus native to Japan
 - Introduced into the northeastern United States in the early 1900s as a biological control for spongy moth
 - Released in Michigan in 1991
 - Weather plays an important role in determining how effective *E. maimaiga* will be in a given year.

