



European Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*)

WHAT IS A EUROPEAN GYPSY MOTH?

The gypsy moth is one of the most serious introduced pests in Canada and the United States. In 2005, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency detected 1 adult gypsy moth in a trap in Gabriel Dumont Park. Since this initial detection, the population of gypsy moth has increased, with 37 moths captured in 2007. Adult females are large and white, while the males are slightly smaller and brown. After mating in mid-summer, females lay a beige egg mass (approximately the size of a quarter) in sheltered places. The egg masses survive the winter and in spring the eggs hatch. The larvae have a hairy appearance with pairs of red and blue dots on their back.

There are two types of gypsy moth that are of concern. The European gypsy moth was originally introduced in 1868 by a naturalist in Massachusetts for silk production. After escaping 140 years ago, this insect is now established throughout most of eastern North America. The Asian gypsy moth is not established in Canada. There have been several detected in British Columbia, but to-date these have been successfully eradicated.

WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE DOES GYPSY MOTH DO?

Gypsy moth prefers to feed on the leaf tissue of oak, willow, poplar, and birch trees, however they will feed on hundreds of different plants including conifer species. Gypsy moth can eat up to 90cm² of leaves per day and are capable of killing trees with consecutive years of severe defoliation.

HOW DO I CONTROL GYPSY MOTH?

If you think that you have seen gypsy moth feeding on your trees, please contact the City of Saskatoon, 975-3300.



Adult Gypsy Moth



Egg Masses on Tree



Gypsy Moth Larva

This information provided by:

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