

Invasive Species: Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*)

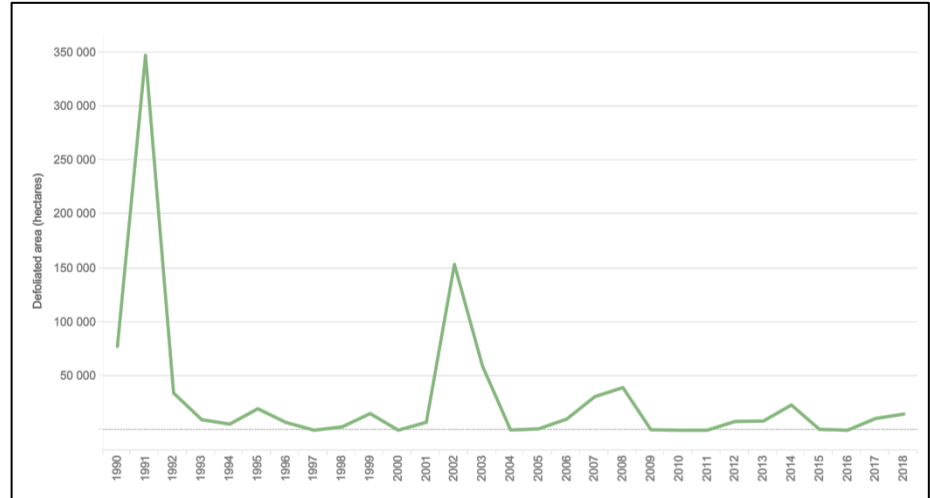


Farlain Lake Community Association AGM – August 5, 2020
Michelle Hudolin, Wetlands & Habitat Biologist



What is Gypsy Moth?

- An invasive leaf-eating insect native to Europe
- Introduced to North America in the 1860s, spread into Ontario by 1969
- Outbreaks are cyclical, typically occurring every 7 to 10 years. In Ontario, previous major outbreaks peaked in 1985, 1991, 2002, 2008



Area of moderate to severe defoliation by Gypsy Moth (1990-2018)

Source: <http://pdf.ccmf.org/en/data/insects.php>



Life Cycle

1. Eggs

- Tanned yellow egg mass
- August to April (laid in summer, hatch in spring)

2. Larva (Caterpillar)

- 5 pairs of blue & 6 pairs of red dots; hairy
- April to July

3. Pupa (Cocoon)

- Dark brown shell; transition to winged moth
- July to August

4. Adult

- Winged moths - brown males have feathery antennae; non-flying females are whitish
- Lack mouthparts
- July to September: two-week period for mating and egg-laying



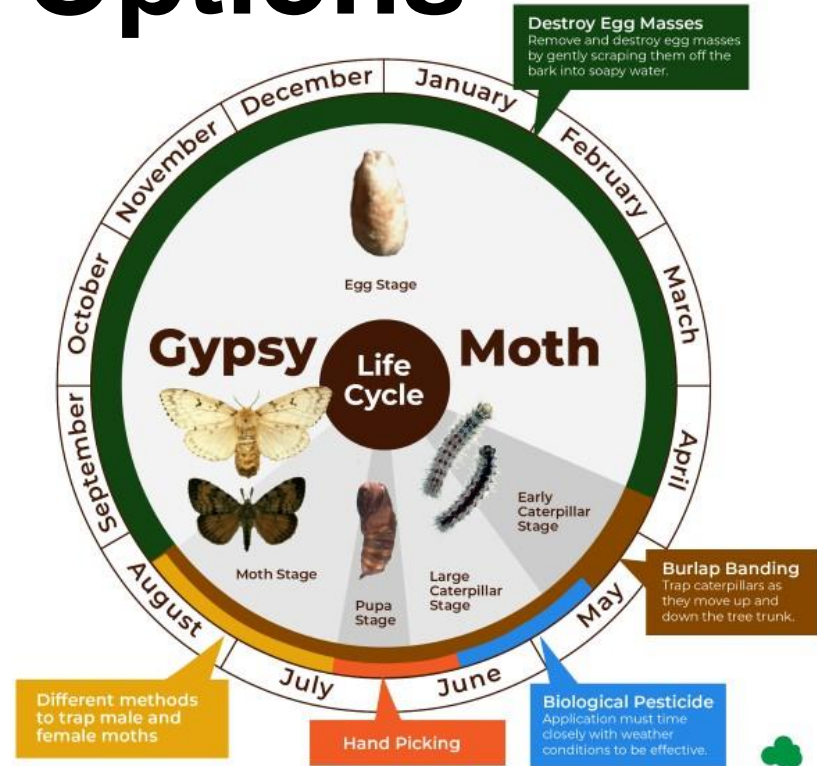
Tree & Forest Impacts

- Preferred host trees include Oak, Maple, Birch, Alder, Aspen
- Nuisance to forest users & property owners
 - Can consume a significant amount of leaves and produce a considerable quantity of frass
- Defoliation can slow tree growth but healthy, mature trees typically survive significant defoliation; trees may re-leaf later in the season
 - Defoliation combined with other stressors can lead to increased mortality



Control Options

- **Natural Controls:** fungal (*Entomophaga maimaigi*) & viral (*Nucleopolyhedrosis virus*) pathogens; bird/mammal/insect predators
- **Mechanical:** scraping/destroying egg masses, shade & pheromone traps, hand-picking
- **Insecticides:** Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis* 'kurstaki') spray, TreeAzin injection



Photography Credits:
USDA APHIS PPQ - Oxford, North Carolina, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org
Tim Tigner, Virginia Department of Forestry, Bugwood.org

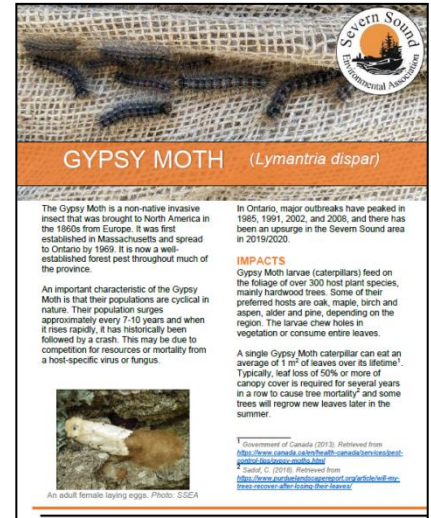
Keep your trees healthy & attract birds to naturally manage pests.

Source: www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Trees-Forests/Pages/Gypsy-Moth.aspx



Resources

- SSEA [Gypsy Moth fact sheet](#)
- County of Simcoe [Gypsy Moth website](#)
- Invasive Species Centre [Gypsy Moth webinar](#) – Aug 18th
- talk with a forestry professional if you wish to manage the health of privately-owned trees & woodlots



SSEA...Keeping Severn Sound healthy...for the next generation and beyond

Questions?



Contact us: InvasiveSpecies@SevernSound.ca

More info: www.severnsound.ca

FOLLOW
US ON:



@severnsoundea



@SSEA_SSRAP

