

GYPSY MOTHS

How to identify

- Four development stages: egg, caterpillar, pupa and moth.
- Caterpillars are 5-6 centimetres long with five pairs of blue dots and six pairs of bright red dots along their back.
- Female moths are white with dark markings and cannot fly.
- Male moths are brown and can fly.
- Egg masses are about 4 cm long, tan colored, and can be found on tree trunks, furniture, buildings, etc.

Impacts

- Defoliates and kills trees
- Attacks many hard and soft wood trees (oak, birch, maple, aspen, white pine, and white spruce, etc.)
- Caterpillars can cause skin irritation or allergic reactions for some people (wear gloves while handling)

Life cycle

Winter: In egg stage in bark of trees

Spring: Larvae (caterpillars) feed on foliage

Summer: Adult moths

How to Manage

Monitor: Check for defoliation and egg masses on trees

Remove by hand: Scrape egg masses from trees (wearing gloves). Dispose of masses in a soap water mixture or burn

More Info

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/gypsy-moth/>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/gypsy-moths.html>

<https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/fbl/resources/gypsy-moth>