

GYPSY MOTH

What you can do to help protect your trees

Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Search

Why - The gypsy moth caterpillar eats the leaves of trees, which can impact the overall health of the tree. By lowering the population by eliminating egg masses you are lowering the overall impact to trees on your property.

What - Oval to oblong tan/bright yellow masses that can range in size from a dime to larger than a toonie.

When - Anytime between mid-August and the end of April. It is easiest to see when leaves are off. Doing two searches, one in the fall and one again in the early spring will ensure that all egg masses that are reachable will be found and destroyed (see below for instructions).

How and Where - Start in one corner of your property and walk in a systematic manner around your property making sure to look high and low, on all types of vegetation and structures. Gypsy moths lay their eggs just about anywhere. However, they prefer sheltered locations such as the underside of patio furniture, the underside of branches, on fire wood, rocks and fences.

Inspect all surfaces of your house including windowsill, under eaves, around bird houses or mail boxes. Egg masses can be found high or low.



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How to destroy the egg masses - First spray the mass with water to stop the egg mass from crumbling. Do not scrape the egg mass onto the ground as it will still hatch.

Instead, scrape the mass with a stick or any object with a flat surface such as a knife or paint scrapper into a container such as a brown paper bag and then into a bucket of soapy water. Soak the mass for a few days to destroy the eggs. Dispose of the water in an appropriate manner.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3