

Stop The Invasion



Photographs courtesy of
Washington State Department of
Agriculture

Lymantriids

Lymantria dispar

Report
Sightings
@

invasivespecies.wa.gov

June 2016



What are they?

Lymantriids include [Asian](#), [European](#), and [rosy gypsy](#) moths and [nun](#) moths. The gypsy moth is one of the worst American forest pest insects. It devours the leaves of more than 500 different species of trees and shrubs and causes enormous damage to the environment and the economy.

Are they here yet?

Most gypsy moths are brought to new areas by people, and Washington sees new introductions every year. Eradication efforts of the Washington State Department of Agriculture have prevented gypsy moths from becoming established here. The department conducts annual surveys to locate new introductions and every summer places 20,000 traps throughout the state. It also works across regional borders to ensure that the Pacific Northwest does not end up permanently infested, as has happened to the East Coast.

Why should I care?

Due to its voracious appetite and ability to rapidly reproduce, the gypsy moth causes incredible damage to forests, nurseries, vegetation along creeks and rivers, and trees and shrubs in yards and parks. It also alters wildlife habitat and affects the quality of life in communities that experience repeated outbreaks. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the economic cost of gypsy moths has averaged \$30 million a year for the past 20 years, mostly due to quarantines imposed on timber and agricultural products.

What should I do if I find one?

Report online at www.invasivespecies.wa.gov. Report observed species to Washington State Department of Agriculture's gypsy moth hotline: 1-800-443-6684.



Photograph courtesy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service - Region 8 Archive, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

How can we stop them?

Gypsy moths primarily are introduced by people. So, please take precautions when traveling to infested areas to avoid bringing eggs back on your cars, recreation vehicles, and outdoor supplies. Please do not remove or vandalize traps. Follow quarantine rules and do not transport any firewood or other outdoor material from infested areas.

What are their characteristics?

- Gypsy moth adult males are light brown. Eurasian gypsy moths females are white with dark zigzags on the wings and do not fly.
- The gypsy moth has a wing span of about 1 1/2 inches.
- Eggs masses of a hundred or more are laid on branches or other sheltered places. The masses are buff-colored when freshly laid and will pale as they age.
- Mature larvae are covered in light colored tufted hairs with five pairs of blue bumps followed by six pairs of red bumps down the back.
- The pupae (or resting stage between the caterpillar larva and adult moth) is a dark brick red and usually found under tree bark and crevices or other protected areas.

Where do I get more information?

- Washington State Department of Agriculture, (800) 443-6684, e-mail gypsymoth@agr.wa.gov, general information www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/InsectPests/GypsyMoth/
- Washington State Department of Agriculture – Asian gypsy moth, www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/InsectPests/GypsyMoth/GM101/AsianGypsyMoth.aspx
- Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
 - Nun moth, www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=4059
 - Rosy gypsy moth, www.invasive.org/browse/subthumb.cfm?sub=4601
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, yourmovegypsymothfree.com/

Report
Sightings
@

invasivespecies.wa.gov