



Spongy Moth Update

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Background

- New name Spongy Month
- Past names *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD) moths/ European gypsy moth
- First found in Ontario in 1969
- Appears in 7 to 10-year cycles, usually lasting 3 years – we are in year 3
- Population fluctuates in relation to environmental and biological controls



Current Outbreak

- 2021 outbreak has been severe and distressing to homeowners especially during the added stress of Covid-19 restrictions.
- Homeowners are overwhelmed, concerned about the health of their trees, and some are experiencing skin irritations from contact with caterpillars.

Overarching Concerns:

- Ecological impacts from declines\losses of oaks and other trees
- Negative forest user experiences due to large numbers of caterpillars and tree declines and mortality
- Increased hazard tree removal costs



Current Outbreak

- Defoliation of oaks, poplars, birch trees across Southern Ontario
- Majority of healthy trees expected to recover



Lymantria dispar dispar 2021

Areas in Ontario where *Lymantria dispar dispar* moth caused defoliation

Light = 9,101 ha

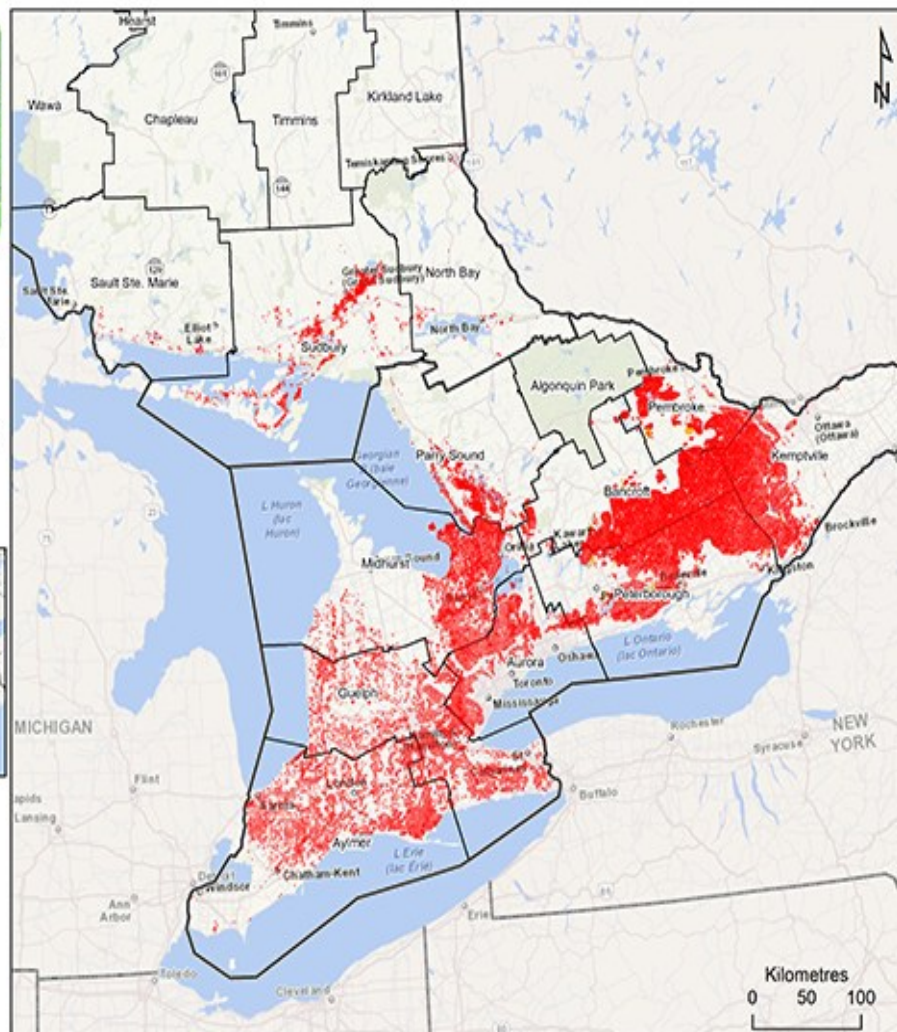
Moderate to severe = 1,779,744 ha

- Area of light defoliation
- Area of moderate to severe defoliation



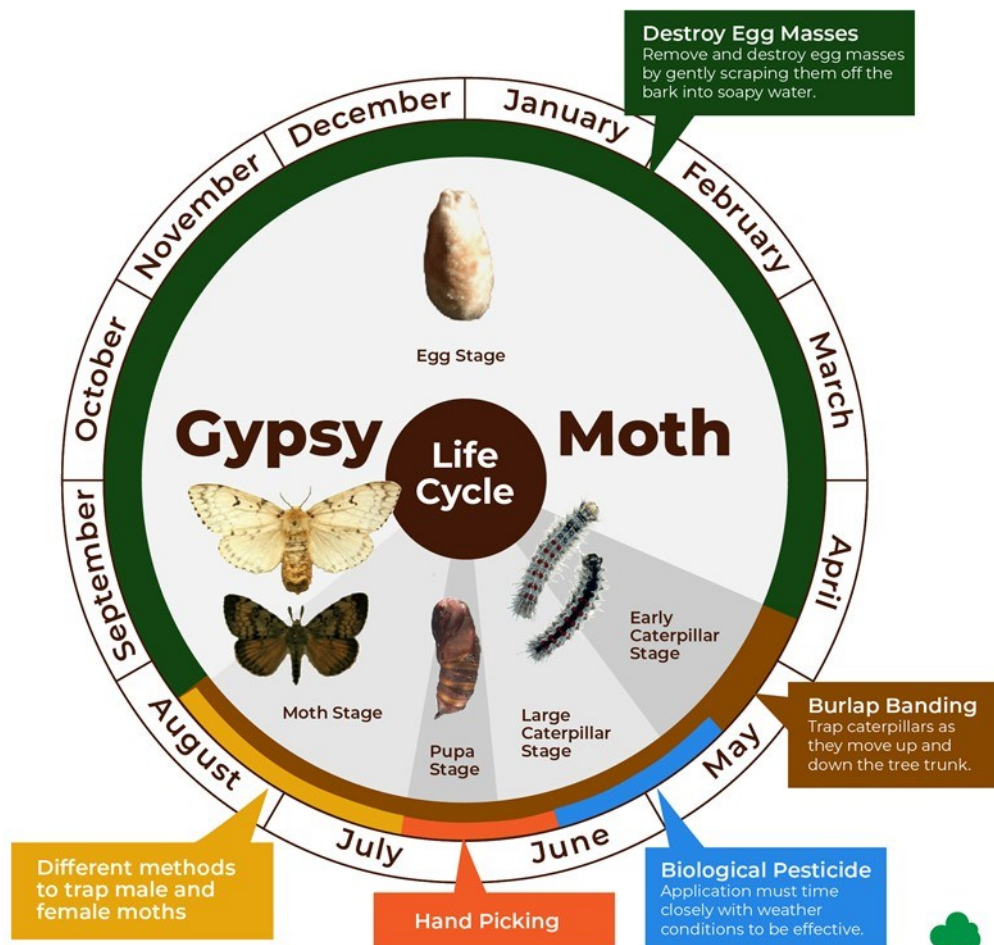
Disclaimer:
This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on this map as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation. This map was produced by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.

Ontario



Pest Management Strategies

- Egg: Late August to Late April
- Larvae: Late April to Mid June
- Pupa: Mid June to Mid July
- Adults: Mid July to Late August



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.

Integrated Pest Management

- Remove eggs masses from Special Management Zones in County Forest
- Burlap wrap high value trees
- Analyze defoliation and tree recovery
- Count egg masses to predict extent of 2023 outbreak
- Direct residents to www.Northumberland.ca/gypsy moth for pest management strategies
- Collaboration with Rice Lake Plains Partners



Approach across Ontario

- Most municipalities and Conservation Authorities are using similar pest management strategies



Gypsy moth life stage and control options

timing	life stage	control options
1 August to mid April	 egg masses Remove egg masses and discard	
2 Mid-April to mid-May	 early stage caterpillar Apply biological pesticides	
3 Mid-May to June	 late stage caterpillar Attach burlap bands and discard larvae	
4 June to mid-July	 pupae Remove by hand and discard	
5 July to August	 adult moth Short lived; focus on other stages	

Pheromone Traps

- Pheromone traps are intended to attract and trap male adult Spongy moths, to prevent them from mating with females.
- Pheromone traps are not the most effective management option. However, it may reduce adult male moth numbers at small scales
- Generally, this is used as a monitoring technique



Future Considerations

- Survey defoliation and mortality of trees
- Forecast 2023 outbreak through Modified Kaladar Plot (MKP)
- Review new treatments as they come out

