



THE GYPSY MOTH



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The gypsy moth is one of the most injurious forest insects in the northeastern United States. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture had successfully eradicated the pest from the State when it was first discovered in 1920. However, in 1963, infestations from adjacent states spread over wide areas and complete abatement of the pest was no longer feasible. Defoliation first appeared in 1966 in Morris County. At that time, only five acres were stripped by the leaf feeding caterpillars. By 1970, nearly 130,000 acres in 11 counties were defoliated by the gypsy moth. Presently, the entire State is considered to be infested.

Life Stages Most Easily Identified

LARVA—The larva, or caterpillar, (shown on cover) is dark and hairy and when full grown is from 1½ - 2½ inches long. Pairs of red and blue dots are found on back. This is the stage causing damage and may be found from late April to early July.

ADULTS—Male moths have slender brown bodies with brown wings, irregularly crossed with dark lines. The wingspread is about 1½ inches. The female moth has a heavy, stout body with white wings crossed with dark lines. The wingspread is about 2½ inches. The males are strong fliers but females don't fly. The adult moths are present from late July to early August. Adults are shown in photo on right.

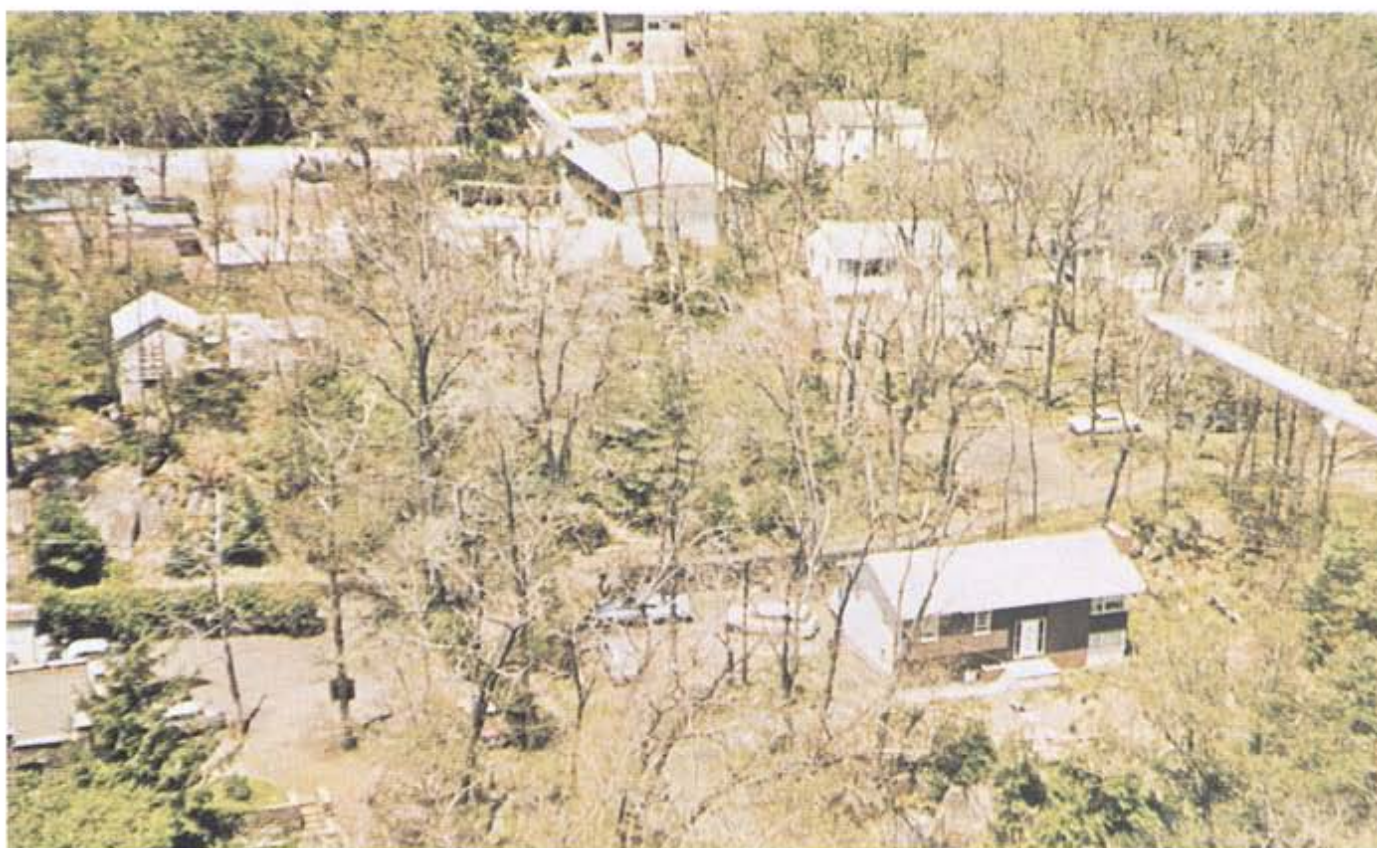
EGG—The buff colored, velvety egg mass is about one inch long and ½ inch wide and may be found attached to trees, rocks, or shaded objects. This stage is evident during late summer, fall and winter. Eggs are shown in photo on right.



Healthy Forests Are A Blessing:

- Providing **recreation** in the country's most densely populated state.
- Providing a **natural filter** for our air and water supplies.
- Providing **food and shelter** for wildlife.
- Reducing **noise pollution** up to 65 per cent.
- Reducing **erosion of soils**.

Unprotected Forests Are A Burden:



Untreated woodland in Passaic County June, 1970

- **OUTDOOR** recreation values are destroyed.
- **DENUDED** trees provide little shelter for wildlife.
- **MIGRATING** caterpillars on homes cause staining of paint.
- **HAIRES** on caterpillars can cause human skin irritations.
- **REMOVAL** of dead trees is costly. Two successive defoliations kill most hardwoods. One defoliation kills hemlock. Woodlands in Passaic County have already lost over one million oak trees.
- Soil erosion and fire danger are increased.

THE DEPARTMENT GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM—

- Year round surveys are conducted to detect woodlands with heavy gypsy moth concentrations.
- Integrated control measures, utilizing both biological and chemical methods, are used. Department laboratories rear and release millions of gypsy moth parasites each year to help reduce damage by this pest. Where bio-control methods are unable to prevent severe defoliation, carefully screened insecticides are recommended.
- Cooperates with municipalities to treat heavy gypsy moth infestations when the municipalities request such help. Provides technical supervision of spraying to insure proper timing and application of insecticide.
- Financial aid to municipalities for gypsy moth control may be available upon approval of State Legislators.

YOU CAN HELP—

- By supporting your local officials, since the gypsy moth control program is conducted on a voluntary basis.
- By cooperating with the Department in allowing inspectors to check your property for signs of infestation or releasing natural enemies of the gypsy moth.

**For additional copies or further information,
write to:**

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• CONSIDER THESE RESOURCES, CONSIDER THEM WELL.