

# Invasive Insect Species

**Gypsy moth larvae defoliate, weaken and kill trees.**

**Gypsy moth is now found in the Charlottetown area... Help Control its Spread!**

## **Gypsy Moth**, *Lymantria dispar*

**Origin:** Europe to Asia

### **Egg mass:**

- laid in July, overwinter in the egg stage and hatch in early May
- tan-coloured, look like felt, are about the size of a quarter
- temperatures of  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  kill exposed egg masses, mild winters and insulating snow cover contribute to increased egg mass survival
- **can be attached to a variety of surfaces:** anything stored outside, trees trunks and branches, rocks, buildings, fences, firewood, lumber, barbeques, outdoor furniture, outdoor toys and playground equipment, tools
- **this stage of the life cycle is the most likely to be spread by movement of goods i.e. household moves, recreational travel, articles that are stored outside**



### **Larvae: this is the most destructive stage**

- newly hatched caterpillars look mostly black
- young caterpillars spin a silken line and are blown to new locations
- mature larva are dark, hairy, have double row of dots: **5 pairs of blue and six pairs of red**, are up to two inches long
- **feed on leaves of hardwood trees:** prefer oak, poplar, birch and fruit trees
- seem to appear and disappear as the larva move up and down the tree feeding at night and finding shade during sunlight hours
- repeated defoliation weakens the trees and makes them susceptible to insect and disease problems



### **Pupa:**

- pupate in mid-summer
- pupa is reddish brown, about 1 inch long
- found in any protected area

### **Moths:**

- emerge in late July - early August
- female mainly white, flightless, lays one egg mass
- male mainly brown, excellent flyer

## **How can you help?**

Inspect trees and articles stored outside for egg masses

If you are transporting articles that have been stored outside... **inspect before you move**

If you find any life cycle stage.... scrape off and dispose of in a sealed container

Report all sightings



CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN

**For more information contact: The Parks and Recreation Department at 368-1025**  
**[www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca](http://www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca)**