



### **DESTROY THE EGG MASSES**

Slide the edge of a knife blade under the egg mass, lift the mass off and dispose of it. Egg masses can be placed in the garbage, burned, or buried in the garden or compost pile. Do not scrape them off and leave them on the ground as this does not destroy the eggs and they will hatch in the spring.

Since there are about a thousand eggs in each mass, destroying egg masses is one of the most effective and least expensive measures the property owner can take to protect trees. When gypsy moth populations are very high, it will be virtually impossible to find and destroy all of the egg masses on your property and other control methods, such as spraying the trees with an insecticide, may be necessary.

### **NOTIFY US**

If you notice gypsy moth egg masses, caterpillars, or leaf damage in your trees in the spring and early summer, please notify the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program at one of the offices listed in this pamphlet.

## **Maryland Department of Agriculture Forest Pest Management Regional Offices**

### **Northeast Office**

3525 Conowingo Road, Suite 400  
Street, Maryland 21154  
410-879-8034

[northeastfpm@gmail.com](mailto:northeastfpm@gmail.com)  
Baltimore City, Baltimore, Cecil, Harford  
and Kent counties

### **Eastern Shore Office**

28577 Mary's Ct., Suite 4  
Easton, MD 21601  
410-822-8234

[heather.disque@maryland.gov](mailto:heather.disque@maryland.gov)  
Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, Talbot,  
Wicomico and Worcester counties

### **Central Office**

92 Thomas Johnson Dr., Suite 160  
Frederick, Maryland 21702  
301-662-2074

[central.fpm@maryland.gov](mailto:central.fpm@maryland.gov)  
Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery,  
and E. Washington counties

### **Southern Office**

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-841-5922

[fpm.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:fpm.mda@maryland.gov)  
Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,  
Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties

### **Western Office**

3 Pershing Street, Room 110  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
301-777-3601

[mdafpmwestern@gmail.com](mailto:mdafpmwestern@gmail.com)  
Allegany, Garrett, and W. Washington counties

***Citizen input is important to us***

MDA-14-002-05



## **GYPSY MOTH** *(Lymantria dispar)*

### **WHAT THE PROPERTY OWNER CAN DO**

### **DESTROY EGG MASSES**



Trees defoliated by gypsy moth caterpillars

**Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Forest Pest Management Section  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
[www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov)**

**410-841-5922  
[fpm.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:fpm.mda@maryland.gov)**

**Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary  
Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary**



Gypsy Moth Egg Mass – life size – in ivy on a tree trunk.



Tiny, newly emerged caterpillars resting on gypsy moth egg mass

## LEARN WHERE TO FIND GYPSY MOTH EGG MASSES

Gypsy moth females lay their egg masses in shaded, “protected” places such as the underside of tree limbs, crevices in tree bark, ivy covered tree trunks and buildings, the underside of furniture, inside the wheel wells of campers and trailers, under the eaves of houses and storage buildings, and under the foundations of houses. They also like woodpiles and the inside of houses!

## LEARN WHAT GYPSY MOTH EGG MASSES LOOK LIKE

In late June or early July, the gypsy moth female lays about a thousand eggs in a single mass. Gypsy moth egg masses are about the size of a quarter, are oval, raised in the center and are tan to light brown in color. Because the female moth deposits hairs and scales from her body in the mass, it appears slightly fuzzy. The mass adheres to the surface on which it was laid - it is not in a web, tent or bag. The egg mass will remain where the female laid it until the following spring when the tiny caterpillars hatch, usually around April 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Persons with allergies should use care when handling egg masses. The hairs and scales can be highly allergenic.*



Gypsy Moth egg masses on the trunk of an oak tree



Look for egg masses in wood piles



Look for egg masses under lawn furniture