

Controlling Gypsy Moths

February 15, 2022

Greeting Friends and Neighbors,

Last year we saw massive outbreaks of Gypsy Moths that defoliated large sections of the Township. If we have another dry spring, we could very easily be seeing another bad season of infestation. It is not too early to begin preparing for this spring to minimize impact. Treating large areas is very hard and costly to do. However, there are some easy steps you can take to minimize impact in your yard.

1. Now (winter) is the time of year you can scrap egg cases off of trees. Do not discard the eggs to the ground as they can still hatch. Place them in a container of soapy water.
2. In early April, when leaves begin to be noticed, place a barrier around the tree trunk. Once can be easily made out of burlap. You can also use double sided tape or a sticky substance to keep young larvae climbing the tree. Many people utilize both approaches.

The below link has useful information on how to build a barrier in addition to how to identify egg cases, larvae and adults. Click on the "life cycle" tab.

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/gypsymothinwisconsin/pest-management-2/making-a-burlap-barrier-band-trap/>.

We hope you have found this information useful and will pass on other tips for control as they become available.

Sincerely,

Dan Buyze

Pierson Township Treasurer