

## Gypsy Moth Pest Management

### **Is there anything I can do to help reduce Gypsy Moths in my yard?**

You bet! Search for Gypsy Moth egg masses on trees, firewood and outdoor furniture. Scrape egg masses into a bucket or similar container filled with soapy water or burn or bury the egg masses. Don't leave the eggs or bits of egg mass on the ground – those eggs can often hatch the following spring.

Also, lets hope for a wet spring. Damp, moist conditions are optimal for funguses that help control and destroy the egg masses. Thick-walled "resting spores" are present in the soil or on tree bark during winter. If moisture and temperatures are favorable, resting spores will germinate in May or June. Young caterpillars make contact with the sticky fungal spores in spring as they search for suitable leaves for feeding. The fungus digests its way into an infected caterpillar, grows inside its body and can kill the caterpillar within a week.

Find this, and much more information regarding this destructive pest at:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/Invasive\\_species/gypsy-moth/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/Invasive_species/gypsy-moth/)

If you are interested in a more intense treatment plan, below is a list of licensed, commercial Aerial Spray Applicators in or near the thumb area.

ALS Aerial Spraying, LLC – 989-834-5067, Ovid, MI

Aura, LLC – 517-575-5588, Elsie, MI

Evans Aviation, Inc. – 810-441-4077, Imlay City, MI

Vaughns Flying Service – 989-551-7700, Reese, MI

**Spraying is most effective when done at the end of April or early May.**

Lapeer County, at this time, does not plan on doing any spraying in the county. Any control measure costs will be the responsibility of the homeowners.

