

Recreational equipment must be free of gypsy moth egg masses before entering non-quarantined areas.

Gypsy moth history

A scientist near Boston introduced the gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) from Europe in 1869 in an attempt to breed a hardier silkworm. A few insects escaped, and since then the gypsy moth has been munching its way westward. Movement was initially slow, but sped up as human travel increased in the 20th century. It is now found throughout most of the northeastern U.S., including eastern and central Wisconsin.



Gypsy moth biology

The female lays well-concealed egg masses in late summer in protected areas of bark, cavities, and in many man-made articles left outdoors like vehicles, campers, furniture and pallets. These light tan colored egg masses are one to one and one-half inches long and one-half to one inch wide with a felt-like texture. The egg masses hatch in spring.

The caterpillars eat the foliage of over 500 species of trees and shrubs. In early July, the caterpillars pupate and the adults emerge about a week later. The female, which can't fly, emits a pheromone scent to attract the male. After mating, the female lays up to 500 eggs in a single egg mass which she covers with golden hairs from her abdomen, giving it the fuzzy texture. The hairs may aggravate respiratory problems or cause allergic reactions in some people, as may the waste from caterpillars during gypsy moth outbreaks.

Gypsy moth trapping

Traps are set in every county in Wisconsin for this insect. Trapping is for detection rather than for control. We use two types of traps: Milk carton traps are used where populations are higher, and tent-shaped traps are used in areas of lower populations. Each trap is baited with a pheromone-scented lure to attract the male gypsy moth. The traps are monitored throughout the summer. The data collected from the traps is used to determine where spray treatments are needed the following spring.

Gypsy moth treatments

Each May and June the State of Wisconsin treats the westernmost populations of gypsy moth in an effort to slow the insects' spread. Treatments may include *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (a soil bacteria), pheromone flakes or Gypcheck (a virus specific to gypsy moth). The Department of Natural Resources also coordinates a cost-share program so that highly infested eastern communities can treat for this pest.

*For more information about gypsy moths:
800-642-MOTH
<http://datcp.state.wi.us/static/gypsymoth>*

*U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
608-231-9545*

*Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection
P.O. Box 8911*



Gypsy Moth Quarantine

What does it mean for you?



**The Wisconsin
Department of
Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer
Protection**



What is a quarantine?

A gypsy moth quarantine is a system of rules administered by the USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection. The rules are intended to prevent the spread of gypsy moth from infested areas to non-infested areas. People moving outdoor materials and woody products can inadvertently transfer these egg masses to new areas.

How does an area become quarantined?

To be quarantined, a county must have several years of high trap catches (10+ males per trap) or an established breeding population. Each year,

statewide trapping and egg mass survey data is compiled. Based on this data, additional counties may be considered for quarantine. All of eastern Wisconsin is under quarantine for gypsy moth.

Wisconsin's quarantine counties

Twenty Wisconsin counties are presently under the quarantine. They are: Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waukesha, Washington, and Winnebago. New counties are added almost every year.

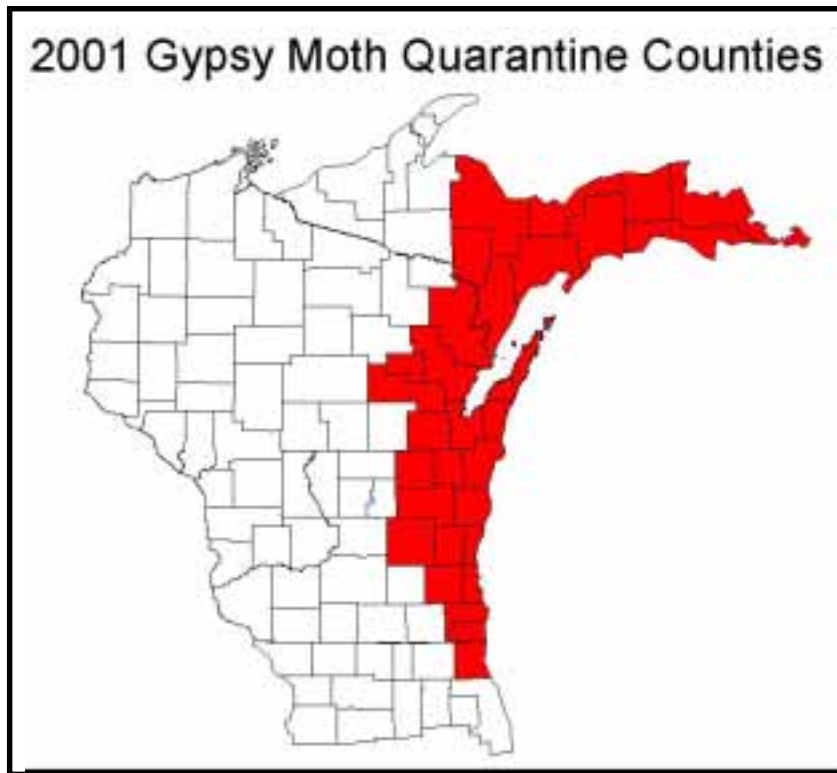
quarantined area. The agreement outlines the conditions allowing free movement of regulated plants to non-quarantined areas while minimizing the risk of spreading gypsy moth. If gypsy moth is found on property that is under a compliance agreement, the owners must treat to control the infestation before the products can be shipped.



Nursery stock and Christmas trees can be inspected and certified on a load-by-load basis in small quantities. Large nurseries can also have deciduous nursery stock certified in the field when plants are dormant. However, evergreens usually cannot be certified in this way.

For the paper and timber industries, which utilize logs from many different sites, the quarantine is enforced primarily through self inspection. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection trains log handlers to recognize gypsy moth egg masses and destroy them. These individuals receive permits to authorize the movement of logs out of regulated areas. This standard is effective for these industries because most of the shipped logs will be processed in a way that destroys the egg masses.

Inspection certificates are also required for household moves out of quarantined areas into non-quarantined areas.



Who is affected?

The quarantine does not involve roadblocks or restrictions on movement for people. It does require anyone moving trees or tree products, or other outdoor articles such as patio furniture, trucks, campers or pallets out of quarantined counties have these articles inspected and assured free of gypsy moth in any life stage before shipping them to a non-quarantined area.

Rules and Regulations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) issues compliance agreements for all nurseries, Christmas tree growers and mills that have one or more shipments going to a non-