

Arrest the Pest Hotline: Metro 651-201-MOTH, Greater Minnesota 1-888-545-MOTH

## Gypsy Moth in Minnesota - Fast Facts

For more information on the gypsy moth, check: [www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsy moth](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsy_moth). You may also email a question or comment to: [gypsy.moth@state.mn.us](mailto:gypsy.moth@state.mn.us)

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

- 1969:** First signs of gypsy moth appear in Duluth (egg masses and pupal cases).
- 1973:** Annual trapping program begins with 550 traps set in Apple Valley.
- 1976:** First male moth trapped in the state (*Hennepin Cty*).
- 2004:** Minnesota joins the federal Slow-the-Spread program.

### TRAPPING PROGRAM

Traps are constructed of weatherproof cardboard and contain a pheromone to attract male gypsy moths. The males then get trapped in the sticky interior of the trap.

30-45 seasonal employees are hired each year to deploy the traps in a grid. This pattern allows MDA to detect any moths that might have migrated in and track any persisting populations.

The eastern third of the state is trapped annually and the western areas are rotated so that the entire state is trapped every 4 years.

### SLOW THE SPREAD PROGRAM

This federal program provides cost share dollars to states to slow the natural spread of gypsy moth through intensive survey and treatment.

A sophisticated computer algorithm combines data on the biology of gypsy moth and trapping results to determine where the boundary is between infested and uninfested areas. This boundary is divided into Action and Monitoring Zones to address different levels of moth distribution. The Action Zone extends to both northeastern and southeastern Minnesota.

Gypsy moth spreads naturally at about 21km/year and the goal of STS is to bring that rate to below 10.5km/year.

### TREATMENTS

56 sites totaling 143,129 acres have been successfully treated since 1980. More recently:

- 2004: 2 sites in Winona County covering 230 acres,
- 2005: 640 acres treated in St. Louis County

2006: 137,735 acres in Lake and Cook Counties

2007: No treatments

2008: 6 sites in Lake and Cook Counties covering 80,079 acres

### QUARANTINE

Gypsy moth populations move naturally, but they can spread much farther and faster with the help of human transportation. In 1912, USDA declared gypsy moth a federally regulated pest and has since quarantined all or parts of 19 states.

Nurseries can import stock from a quarantined area that must be certified pest-free but because life stages can be so hard to find, there is still a risk of bringing along unwanted "hitchhikers."

Saw and pulp mills importing raw logs from the quarantined areas are also considered high risk.

USDA and MDA work together to write and enforce compliance agreements for high-risk companies that allow them to continue their business while following guidelines to minimize the chance of introducing gypsy moths to Minnesota.

### BUDGET

Funds for this program come from both state and federal sources. Economic analysis shows that for every dollar spent in STS, 3 dollars are saved by the general public.

2005:	\$ 789,100
2006:	\$ 1,918,630
2007:	\$ 515,342
2008:	\$ 1,011,159 (estimated)



### COOPERATIVE GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM

Partner agencies strive to delay the establishment of gypsy moth in Minnesota through early detection and eradication for as long as is economically and ecologically feasible.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
USDA Forest Service