

## NR 40 Reasonable Precautions for Quarantined Species: Gypsy Moth

October 2013

The European strain of gypsy moth is well-established in the eastern 2/3 of Wisconsin. [The current quarantine map](#) shows counties quarantined for gypsy moth in red. Quarantine restrictions apply to the movement of firewood, logs, Christmas trees, outdoor furniture and other outdoor items **out** of the quarantine to a non-quarantined area. More information on quarantine regulations specific to each of these items is available through [Wisconsin's cooperative gypsy moth website](#). There are no restrictions for moving outdoor articles **within** the quarantined area of Wisconsin

In non-quarantined counties, the European gypsy moth is listed as a “Restricted” species in NR 40, meaning that movement of the life stages is not permitted in these counties. Unlike some other quarantined species, counties are typically quarantined for gypsy moth when it is established across most of the county, not just because one life stage has been found at a single site. **If you are in a non-quarantined county, you may encounter gypsy moth life stages and must take precautions to avoid moving them.**

Assume any gypsy moths you encounter in Wisconsin are of the European strain unless told otherwise by an expert. Established populations of the Asian strain have not been found in North America.

- **Follow quarantine restrictions if moving outdoor articles from quarantined to non-quarantined counties.**
- **Use NR 40 precautions (described below) if moving these items within the non-quarantined counties of Wisconsin.**

**NR 40 precautions to avoid moving gypsy moth within the non-quarantined counties of Wisconsin:**

**1. Recognize gypsy moth life stages.**

- The egg mass (Fig. 1) is the most commonly moved life stage of the gypsy moth and each mass can contain several hundred eggs. Egg masses that contain viable eggs are present between July and the following May. They are firm to the touch and darker in color than egg masses from previous years.
- Caterpillars may be present from May until mid-July but you are unlikely to see them until they are in the last 3 weeks of their development and >1 inch in length (Fig. 2). Gypsy moth caterpillars feed independently and are not associated with silk tents.
- Pupae are present for approximately three weeks in July (Fig 3.)



Figure 1, Gypsy moth egg masses:  
Left – laid this summer, with viable eggs  
Right – last year's empty egg mass

Photo by Bill McNee

**2. Inspect items that have been stored outside before moving them.** Gypsy moth may be present in non-quarantined counties, especially those adjacent to the quarantined area. Gypsy moth can be moved on a wide variety of items including:

- Firewood
- Christmas trees
- Vehicles and tractors
- Logs
- Outdoor furniture and play equipment
- Signs, outdoor décor and bird houses

Before moving these items, look them over for the presence of gypsy moth life stages. Egg masses, pupae or caterpillars may be on the surface or they may be hidden and not immediately visible.

3. **Remove and destroy gypsy moth life stages.** Egg masses and caterpillars can be scraped into soapy water. Pupae and female moths should be crushed. After three days you can discard the drowned life stages in the trash unless pest control officials ask that they be sent in to confirm a new population. **Report any gypsy moth life-stages found in non-quarantined counties to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)** by email: [gypsymoth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:gypsymoth@wisconsin.gov) or by phone (1-800-642-MOTH).



Figure 2  
Gypsy moth caterpillar  
Photo by Bill McNee



Figure 3  
Gypsy moth pupae  
Photo by Linda Williams