

Invasive Defoliators

4A

European
Gypsy Moth



Photo: John H. Ghent,
USDA Forest Service,
Bugwood.org

4B

Rosy
Gypsy
Moth



Photo: USDA APHIS PPQ Archive,
USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



John H. Ghent, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

European Gypsy Moth

Class: Insecta
Order: Lepidoptera
Species: *Lymantria dispar* (L)

European Gypsy Moth (GM) is a forest destroying ravenous eater! This moth has some distinct characteristics: the female is too heavy to fly; she lays up to 1000 eggs at a time in a sticky mass almost as big as she is; each larva (caterpillar) eats an area of leaves equivalent to the top of your teacher's desk (about 9 sq. ft.!) The GM larvae have 5 pairs of parallel blue spots starting behind the head followed by 6 pairs of parallel red spots. These larvae defoliate (destroy leaves) hundreds of varieties of trees including aspen, birch, mountain ash, and willow. GM males are brown with feathered (pectinate) antennae. The white and brown female lays her eggs in the fall; eggs overwinter in protected areas. In the spring the larvae hatch and pupate in late June and July. Predators of the GM larvae include birds and mammals such as mice, chipmunks, and squirrels. Species of wasps and flies also provide some biological control. Humans can unknowingly transfer the GM easily as the larvae can drop onto cars and outdoor equipment. Egg masses have been found on trees, limbs, bark, rocks, and structures including buildings, campers, tents, etc. Parts of the eastern U.S. are currently infested. You can help stop European Gypsy Moth invasion in Montana by inspecting recreational vehicles and any outdoor equipment for egg masses before transportation and reporting any sightings to your local Extension office. For more information and to visit the source link to:

http://sfec.cfans.umn.edu/prod/groups/cfans/@pub/@cfans/@sfec/documents/article/cfans_article_380545.pdf

<http://www.hungrypests.com/the-threat/european-gypsy-moth.php>

APHIS: [European Gypsy Moth](#)



USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Rosy Gypsy Moth

Class: Insecta
Order: Lepidoptera
Species: *Lymantria mathura* Moore

Rosy Gypsy Moths (RGM) are native to Asia and are found in many parts of the world including Russia, Japan, China, and India. They pose a high risk of invasion for the western United States. RGM female wingspans are up to 84 mm and males up to 46 mm. Females fly at night and lay egg masses of 150 – 600 eggs on bark and other objects. Up to 1000 of these larvae (caterpillars) can be seen eating leaves on a single tree, which they prefer to do at night too. Tree defoliation from the RGMs over multiple years kills the trees. The RGM larvae have one pair of penicillin (long hair tufts) on the anterior (front) portion of the head and two pairs on their posterior (rear). These larvae defoliate (destroy leaves) hundreds of varieties of trees including apple, cherry, pear, birch, oak, willow, walnut, and others. RGMs are related to other Gypsy Moth species but unlike European Gypsy Moths, the females can fly and spread much faster. You can help stop Rose Gypsy Moth invasion in Montana by reporting any sightings to your local Extension office. For more information and to visit the source link to:

<http://www.forestpests.org/vd/4601.html>

http://wiki.bugwood.org/Lymantria_mathura

<http://www.padil.gov.au/pests-and-diseases/pest/main/136286>