

If I missed the spray program, is there anything I can do, personally, to reduce the impact of defoliation?

Yes! There are numerous things landowners can do to minimize gypsy moth populations and defoliation.

- **Diversify your landscape.** Gypsy moths favor oaks, but despise Tulip poplar, Dogwood, and White ash. So diversify your landscape. Other trees/plants disliked by gypsy moths include Boxwood, Cedars, Ginkgo, Juniper, Holly, Hackberry, Honeylocust, Lilac, Mountain laurel, Mulberry, Sycamore, Spicebush, Viburnums, and Yews.
- **Maintain your plants.** Sick or stressed trees are easy prey for gypsy moth caterpillars. Healthy, vigorous plants tend to resist attack and have a better chance of surviving a severe infestation.
- **Remove resting sites.** Gypsy moth caterpillars like to rest in dark, dry areas during the heat of the day, especially as they grow larger. Therefore, the fewer hiding places, the more gypsy moths will be prone to natural predators such as mice, birds, small mammals, and other insects.
- **Destroy larva, female moths, and egg masses.** Burlap around tree trunks can provide that 'resting site' and as caterpillars congregate under the burlap, the burlap and caterpillars can be removed and destroyed. "Eradicoat" (www.eradicoat.com) is another great way to kill caterpillars. Eradicoat is an insecticide which is sprayed onto burlap once the burlap has been wrapped around the trunks of trees. Any gypsy moth caterpillars that crawl across it will absorb the insecticide through their feet and die. This insecticide does NOT kill ants, beetles, or other insects – only caterpillars. • Each female moth or egg mass that you destroy eliminates an average of 500 caterpillars from next year's gypsy moth population. Since female moths do not fly, they are easily caught and destroyed. Eggs are tan in color and are usually found on the protected side of the tree (underside of branches, eaves, and trunks, if the tree leans). DO NOT just scrape them onto the ground. This will not kill the eggs. Collect them in a jar/can and destroy them.