

# Protecting Eugene from the Gypsy Moth

## What we have found in Eugene

Nine gypsy moths were trapped in Eugene last summer. Seven were caught in southeast Eugene and 2 were caught southwest of Eugene. In 2007, ODA trapped two gypsy moths in southeast Eugene. The multiple catches in 2007 and 2008 indicate that a population is developing in the Dillard Rd. and Amazon Creek area.



## Why worry about gypsy moth?

Gypsy moth caterpillars are one of the most destructive tree defoliators in the US. They prefer oak but will eat hundreds of species of trees and shrubs. The caterpillars have defoliated millions of acres of trees and shrubs in the northeastern United States. When the caterpillars eat the leaves of broad-leaved trees year after year the trees become weak. These trees become susceptible to disease and fire, and may provide poor habitat for other forms of animal and plant life. Fir trees can die after just one year if the caterpillars strip all of the needles. Not only do caterpillars strip trees and shrubs of foliage, they can become a nuisance when crawling on sidewalks, patios, houses, and other structures. They also create a continuous and audible rain of messy droppings under infested trees. In some cases, people develop an allergy to the hairs of the gypsy moth larvae.



## What can we do about the gypsy moths in Eugene?

Currently, the gypsy moth population in Eugene is small. Eradicating gypsy moths while the population is small is the best way to stop them from spreading to other parts of Oregon. We can use a naturally occurring bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (B.t.k.), to kill gypsy moth caterpillars within the smallest effective eradication area. B.t.k. is a

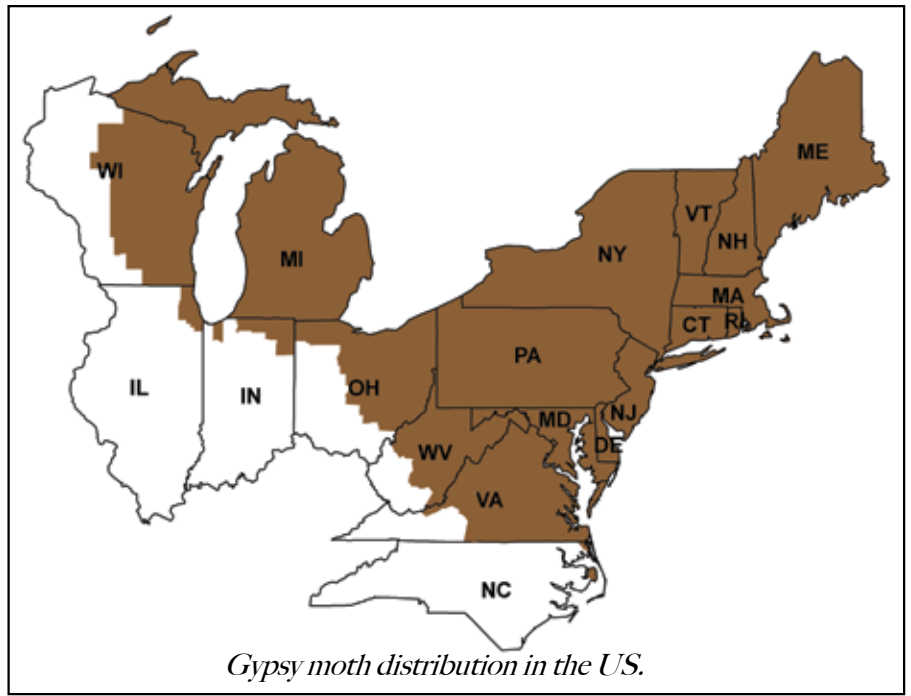


commercially available product approved for organic agriculture by Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), Eugene, Oregon. We can place many traps in the area to make sure that we are successful.

### How can I help?

If you see any signs of the gypsy moth on your property or in your neighborhood, please contact us at 503-986-4636 or 1-800-525-0137. You may see caterpillars in the spring (April through May), adult moths in July or August, and egg masses in the fall (September until the following spring). Even if you don't notice any

of these signs there is still a chance that you may have gypsy moths on your property. If you or your neighbors have traveled by car or an RV within the last few years to a gypsy moth infested state, you may have unexpectedly brought an egg mass or pupal case back to Oregon with you. Female moths lay their eggs in the fall on all types of surfaces, including wheel wells, tires, under car carriages, outdoor equipment, etc. Pupal cases can attach to vehicles or outdoor equipment in early summer after caterpillars have finished feeding.



*Facing north on Dillard Road, the positive catch site.*



*Gypsy moth trap on Dillard Road with three moths.*

### For further information please contact:

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Plant Division  
635 Capitol St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532  
503-986-4636 or 1-800-525-0137  
[oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/IPPM](http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/IPPM)



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This information is available in other formats if needed.