

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Gypsy Moth (GM)

(*Lymántria díspar*)

Survey Protocols



Hosts

With few exceptions, GM larvae feed on most deciduous trees and shrubs. Oak, birch, willow, and fruit trees are all excellent hosts. Gypsy moths feed on more than 300 plant species. Traps may be placed in evergreens or on fence posts only if there are no suitable host trees or shrubs nearby.

Site selection and location

- Secure locations such as private property with good hosts (with permission)
- Public land: highway pullouts, right of ways, parks
- Avoid schools, certain pets/animals, construction sites, or locations where many people will see the traps, roadsides in the path where brush is removed, or property that is for sale

Trap Type and supplies

- Gypsy moth delta trap (includes barcode, lure, tag, twist tie)
- Flagging—optional but helpful in remote or difficult to find locations
- Sharpie/waterproof pen



Lure

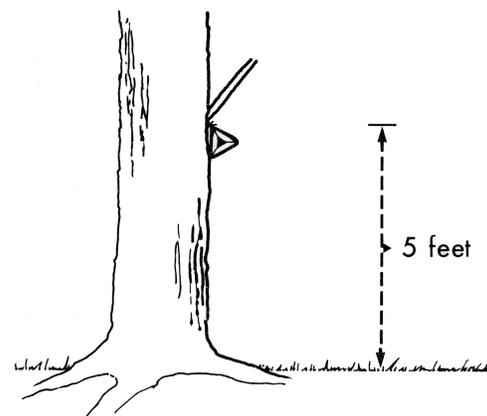
The pheromone (string) lure will already be in your gypsy moth trap. The lure does not need to be replaced during the season.

Trapping Time Period

Placed by mid-July and removed before October.

Trap Placement

Traps should be placed as close to the trunk of the tree as possible by either securing it to the main trunk or to a smaller branch at a height of about five feet (see diagram). If you have a choice of more than one host at a particular site, choose the largest tree with a single trunk (not a tree with multiple trunks). If you think the trap is in a location where it may be vandalized, place the trap on the backside of the tree where it will be out of sight. Make sure the foliage does not cover the trap openings.



GM

47-19,345

6/8/15 P JVH

8/10/15 ✓ JVH

9/21/15 R JVH



Trap Labeling

Label the trap bottom when you place the trap with the full site number (county number–site number), species (GM), the date, 'P' for 'placed', and your initials. Every time you check and service the trap write the date, your initials, and appropriate activity code (see the trap card) on the trap bottom. When you replace a trap, copy all of the information from the trap to the new trap before turning it in to your supervisor/ODA entomologist.

Trap Checking and Data Recording

If possible check the trap two to three times during the season. Record the date, the activity code(s), and your initials each time you check the trap. Replace the trap if it is very dirty or if you find a suspect gypsy moth. If you replace the trap be sure to write your initials, site number, trap number, trap type, and trap checking history on the bottom of the trap.

Submitting Samples

If you see a suspect GM in a trap, remove the trap and replace it with a new one. As explained above be sure to copy all of the information to the new trap. Call your supervisor/ODA entomologist right away and make arrangements to get the sample to your assigned office or to the ODA lab in Salem. If possible take a photo of the suspect so it can be examined immediately. Never try to remove the suspect from the trap because the sticky glue will likely damage it.

Trap Removal

In September, typically just after Labor Day, gypsy moth traps should be removed from the field. Usually it takes until the end of September or early October to remove all of the traps statewide. When you remove the trap be sure to check it for any suspect moths, label the trap, and make sure all flagging is removed from the site. Write an 'R' for 'remove' and your initials on the trap card and the trap. Place the traps in a clear plastic garbage bag. Use the original bags if you have them. If you spend time searching for a missing trap and can't find it, record as missing "M" on the trap card. If you find small remnants of the trap (wires, trap tags, broken trap pieces, etc.) but can't find the trap itself, place a "D" on the trap card.

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