

PEST: Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*)

BASIC PROFILE: GM larvae are voracious eaters and may feed on hundreds of deciduous and evergreen tree species but prefer oak and aspen. They can defoliate large stands of forested areas in a season. Adult male moths (brown) can move through natural spread about 15 miles annually. Female moths (white) of the common European variety do not fly. Male GM wingspan is ~25 – 40 mm (1” – 1 1/2 “).

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF and USDA conduct annual surveys for this pest using pheromone lure traps. Typically, traps are deployed from April through mid-September. Risk factors include presence of host plants – particularly in wooded areas near suburban neighborhoods and trees near well-traveled sites (campgrounds, highways, military bases, rest stops). LDAF also spot checks Christmas trees entering Louisiana for GM egg masses. GM can also move on nursery stock and LDAF places a few traps at nursery locations. USDA maintains a federal GM quarantine.

Egg Mass (~25mm, 1” size)



Larva (~37-50mm, 1.5” – 2” long, blue/red dots)



Adult Male Moths



Note feathery antennae, robust body and spots and banding on forewings. Color and size may vary.