



June 16, 2014

Gypsy Moth Discovery in Greater Cincinnati Area

Mid last week, Joe Boggs and I went on a green industry visit; little did we know we would be verifying a gypsy moth infestation in the Greater Cincinnati Area. Below is what Joe authored to all Green Industry locations in the Tri-State Area, but as a homeowner, it would be beneficial for the community individual to be vigilant on understanding what to look for in your landscape.

A population of the European gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) was discovered this week in the Greater Cincinnati region. The population is located within the gypsy moth "eradication zone" meaning that the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has responded rapidly to eliminate this general defoliator in our region.

We Need Your Help

As with the discovery of any non-native pest that is targeted for eradication, there is always the possibility that satellite infestations have developed prior to the discovery of the main infestation. We need your help with discovering and reporting any undetected satellite infestations.

What to Look For: Caterpillars

The three images below show the gypsy moth caterpillars as they currently appear in the infestation. They are nearing pupation, so they are large caterpillars. **Note** that while these hairy caterpillars vary slightly in coloration, a "blue spots - red spots" feature remains constant. Just behind the head are five pairs of blue spots followed by six pairs of brick red spots.

What to Look For: Plant Hosts

Oaks are generally considered a preferred host; however, the caterpillars may feed on a wide variety of landscape and forest plants. Note that the caterpillars in two of the images are on Colorado blue spruce; all spruces (*Picea* spp.) are susceptible. Other possible hosts include: alder, *Alnus* spp.; aspen, *Populus* spp.; gray birch, *Betula populifolia*; white birch, *B. papyrifera*; hawthorn, *Crateagus* spp.; hemlock, *Tsuga* spp.; Japanese maple, *Acer palmatum*; larch, *Larix* spp.; linden, *Tilia* spp.; mountain ash; *Sorbus* spp.; willows, *Salix* spp.; and witch-hazel, *Hamamelis* spp.

Caterpillars are general defoliators; damage will appear as missing pieces of leaves / needles or the complete loss of leaves / needles. Damage on spruce looks similar to bagworm damage.

REPORTING:

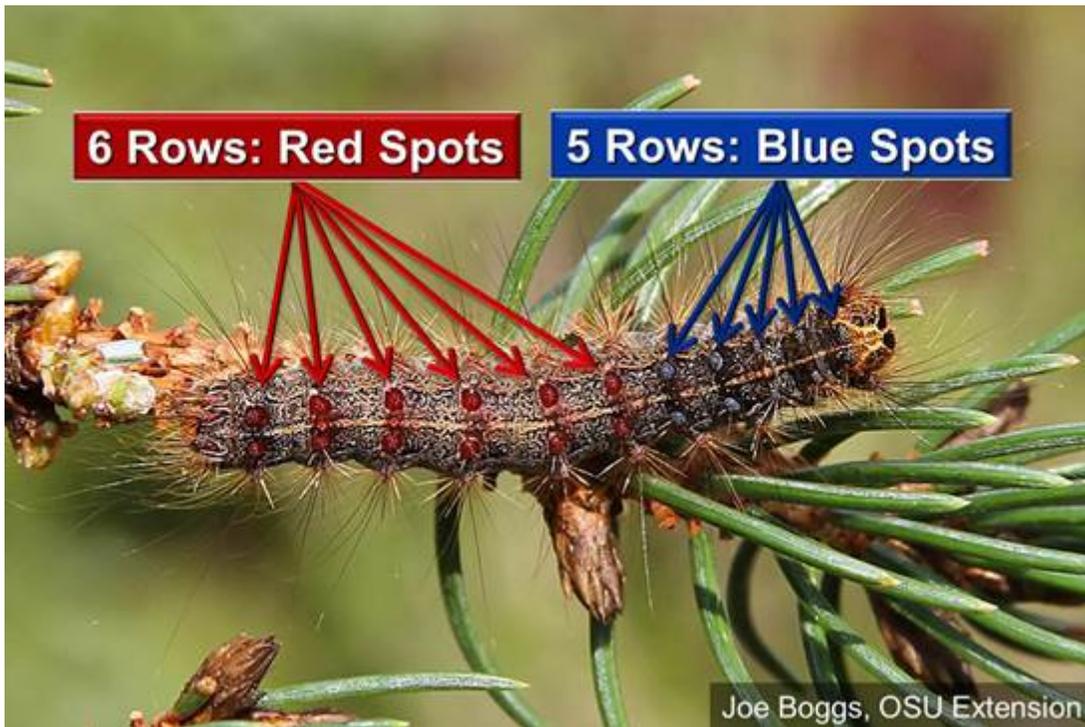
If you find gypsy moth caterpillars in Ohio in the Greater Cincinnati region, please report it immediately to Gigi Neal, OSU Extension Clermont County; Joe Boggs, OSU Extension Hamilton County; or John Day, ODA Nursery Inspector.

Gigi Neal: neal.331@osu.edu 513-732-7070
Joe Boggs: boggs.47@osu.edu 513-946-8989
John Day: jday@agri.ohio.gov

If you find gypsy moth caterpillars in the Greater Cincinnati region in Kentucky or Indiana, please report it immediately to the appropriate regulatory agencies for those states:

Kentucky: Office of the State Entomologist; <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/NurseryInspection/>

Indiana: Indiana Department of Natural Resources; <http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/4531.htm>





Joe Boggs, OSU Extension