

GYPSY MOTHS WILL LEAVE YOU LEAFLESS

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



This year Foster was hit hard by Gypsy Moth Caterpillar deforestation. Next Spring it may be just as bad if not worse. What can you do to protect your trees?

Scrape off any egg cases you can see and reach. Burning them may not be enough to kill all the eggs so it is recommended that you either microwave them or spray them using a hand sprayer with a soy-based pesticide such as the Golden Pest Spray Oil pictured below. A 50/50 solution with water is recommended.

Make sure the egg cases are completely saturated. Spraying in the late Fall and Winter will lessen any adverse affects on other insects.

If you cannot find it locally, you may order online, here is one link:
<http://www.7springsfarm.com/golden-pest-spray-oil-by-stoller-usa-1-gallon/>

Even with this preventative, there may be thousands of caterpillars hatching out again in the Spring that were unreachable.

Wrapping the trunks of your trees early on will help. The caterpillars will drop down on thin threads and then crawl up the tree again. If you can stop them from climbing, you can save much of the leaves and keep your trees from dying.



The way to do this is to make barrier bands using duct tape and a waterproof, sticky material such as Tree Tanglefoot or petroleum jelly. When the bark is dry, wrap duct tape around the tree, shiny side out, pressing the tape firmly into the bark cracks to prevent caterpillars from slipping under the bands.



The tape should be wrapped a few inches wide and placed around the tree trunk at chest height, about four feet above the ground. Apply the sticky material around the center. For rough-barked trees place it more toward the bottom and slightly under the edge.

Courtesy of the Foster Conservation Commission