

Asian Gypsy Moth

Lymantria dispar

Native to Asia, the Asian Gypsy Moth was first introduced to Washington and Oregon in 1991. Through trapping and spraying the moth was eradicated. Since this eradication, several infestations and eradications have occurred. Mainly a pest of hardwood trees, the Asian Gypsy Moth also feeds on coniferous trees and is currently being eradicated again in Oregon and in California. Asian Gypsy Moths are **not yet present in Rhode Island**.



USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Identifying Features:

Adult males have brownish-gray wings with a wingspan of 1 ½ inches in length. Adult females are larger. They are white with a wingspan of 3 ½ inches or more.

The larval (caterpillar) stage is when all damage is caused. Larvae are hairy with five pairs of black spots and six pairs of brown spots.

Morphologically, Asian Gypsy Moths and European Gypsy Moths are the same. However, **unlike European Gypsy Moths, the Asian Gypsy Moth has a broader host range, feeding on over 500 trees/shrubs**. In addition, the female Asian Gypsy Moth can fly.



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Damage:

- Larvae attack more than 500 species of trees and shrubs, weakening them making them susceptible to diseases or other pests.
- This weakening may also kill trees and shrubs.
- In homes, yards and parks, caterpillar silk strands, destroyed leaves, droppings and dead moths would be a public nuisance.

During periods of Asian Gypsy Moth outbreaks, particularly in wooded suburban areas, the sound of chewing and frass dropping is a constant nuisance during the egg hatching stage in spring.

Information Sources

[Aphis Factsheet: Asian Gypsy Moth](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/fs_phasiangm.pdf), April 2003. 3 March 2009

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/fs_phasiangm.pdf>

[Asian Gypsy Moth: Pest Alert](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/caps/pdf/Asian%20Gypsy%20Moth%20Pest%20Alert.pdf), 3 March 2009 <<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/caps/pdf/Asian%20Gypsy%20Moth%20Pest%20Alert.pdf>>.

Image Sources

[Invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org) - [Asian Gypsy Moth](http://www.invasive.org), 25 August 2008. 3 March 2009 < <http://www.invasive.org/search/action.cfm?q=asian%20gypsy%20moth>>.