



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE PROGRAMME?

The Gypsy moth surveillance programme relies on property owners' in-kind contributions to the programme. Property owners host the traps, allowing access to MPI approved personnel to service and check the traps at 2-weekly intervals. They also assist by reporting back to MPI if they suspect something may be compromising the integrity of the traps located on their property.

We sincerely thank the property owners who currently host the traps for this programme – without their co-operation and assistance the programme would be unable to operate. If you are not currently hosting traps but are approached by MPI approved personnel to host them, we hope that you are able to assist.

It should be noted however that not all properties are suitable for traps – these need to be located in specific places to ensure the surveillance grids are complete and your property would have to be in a suitable location to assist with hosting.



Female gypsy moth

If you find suspect egg masses, caterpillars or moths please call: 0800 80 99 66

New Zealand Government

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GYPSY MOTH SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME



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The Gypsy Moth Surveillance Programme was initiated in 1992 to provide assurance of New Zealand's freedom from gypsy moth, and early warning of gypsy moth incursions to facilitate eradication. There are currently four species of gypsy moths (Lymantrid moths) listed as regulated organisms for New Zealand.



Male gypsy moth

Gypsy moth is widespread in Europe, Asia and also occurs in areas of North America. It is one of the most damaging forest pests in these areas. Oak trees are the preferred hosts, but gypsy moth can also feed on the leaves of many other forestry and orchard trees. Gypsy moth surveillance is undertaken in New Zealand for a number of reasons. Firstly New Zealand has significant trade relationships with countries infested with gypsy moth, and this provides a risk pathway for the moth to enter this country. Secondly, inspections of imported used vehicles and containers, the most common means of transporting gypsy moth egg masses internationally, are not 100 percent effective.

Gypsy moth is both an economic and environmental high-impact pest. Large numbers of caterpillars infest trees, stripping them clear of leaves and exposing them to diseases. A major outbreak of gypsy moth in New Zealand could destroy gardens, crops, forests, native bush and the communities that depend on them.

Since 2004, the surveillance programme has been operated by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), with in-kind contribution from selected members of the public who host the traps used in this programme, on their properties. The actual cost of the programme (approx \$400 000 per annum) is funded by a biosecurity levy on high risk goods entering New Zealand.



Female gypsy moth and egg mass

The only gypsy moth detection in New Zealand to date occurred in Hamilton City in 2003, with eradication declared in May 2005. The detection highlighted areas for improvement in the surveillance programme, particularly in targeting of important risk sites/ pathways such as transitional facilities.

HOW DOES THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WORK?

A commercially available pheromone (+) disparlure is deployed in sticky delta traps to detect male moths. Approximately 1500 traps are set up in grids and maintained from October to May each year. Traps are usually placed on the trunk or branch of a host tree. MPI approved trappers check each trap for gypsy moth every two weeks during the trapping period, with the primary targets being ports.

The 2004/05 season saw a gradual alignment of the programme towards transitional facilities and implementation of a coastal buffer for sites where there is a possibility of larvae ballooning from infested ships towards land. Ballooning is how the gypsy moth larvae disperse – they produce a silken thread that catches the wind like a balloon and carries the larvae to a new area.



Photo:ASUREQuality Ltd

Pheromone Trap

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