

Gypsy Moth *Population in Mississauga*

The European Gypsy Moth found in Mississauga is a defoliating insect that is considered to be a pest throughout North America. The caterpillar eats the leaves of trees, which can have a detrimental impact on the overall health of the tree. Gypsy moth is most commonly found on hardwood species such as maple, elm and most commonly oak.

Gypsy moth will always be present in the City of Mississauga. Mitigation measures will not eradicate the population, but instead minimize population levels reducing defoliation of trees. Due to ideal weather conditions for population growth, there have been some areas of increased levels of gypsy moth in the City in 2013.

City staff and contractors implemented Integrated Pest Management measures on numerous city street and park trees in the spring/summer of 2013, and continue to monitor population levels City wide.

What you can do to help protect your trees

Residents are encouraged to monitor their property for signs of gypsy moth egg masses. The following Integrated Pest Management measures have proven effective in the control of gypsy moth:

- pick caterpillars off foliage/tree trunks and branches and soak them in soapy water (May - July)
- place sticky bands on tree trunks (May - July)
- install burlap wraps around tree trunks and then collect and destroy the caterpillars (May - September)
- use pheromone traps to capture and confuse male moths (June - August)
- scrape off and destroy egg masses (August - May)
- leave wooded habitat around trees, shrubs and garden plants to encourage natural predators (year round)
- water trees (as needed)

The City of Mississauga will be hosting homeowner workshops during the month of November aimed at residents in neighbourhoods where populations exist. The purpose of the workshops will be to provide information and answer questions about gypsy moth in Mississauga, as well as some hands on demonstrations of IPM measures residents can do at home. The City will be advertising details on the workshops in the upcoming weeks, by way of homeowners associations notification, city website updates and other methods, to ensure ample opportunity for all to attend!

Learn more about Gypsy Moth visit mississauga.ca/gypsymoth or by calling 3-1-1.