

Gypsy Moth



The gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) was brought to the U.S. in 1869 to experiment with silk production. Populations soon established and the pest has been expanding in distribution since. Adult females are not able to fly. Gypsy moth larvae spin a thread of silk and disperse in the wind. It is estimated that this natural spread would be about 2 miles per year. The actual rate of spread has been much greater due to human aid, primarily by movement of nursery stock and automobiles.

Steps are being taken to slow gypsy moth spread. Trees, Christmas trees, shrubs and logs from quarantined areas must be certified before movement. State and federal agencies use pheromone traps to detect outlying populations. Eradication measures are taken if outlying sites are determined to have established gypsy moth populations. Since 1993, officials have implemented a "Slow the Spread" program that uses intensive sampling and precise population control techniques. The program is concentrated on a 100 mile wide band bordering the generally infested area. The rate of spread has been about half as fast since implementation of the program. This program has been implemented in the arrowhead region of Minnesota since 2003.

No gypsy moths were caught in the 300 pheromone traps placed in North Dakota in 2005. However, the numbers of gypsy moths were much higher in the arrowhead region of Minnesota (see map).

Gypsy moths feed on a wide range of trees and shrubs and could be transported on any nursery stock or Christmas trees brought into the state from quarantined areas. Closely inspect and monitor stock received from these areas.



Late stage larva



Larvae defoliating a tree



Female gypsy moth with egg mass



Male and female gypsy moth

2005 Gypsy Moth Trapping Records
Data source: NAPIS & MN Dept of Ag

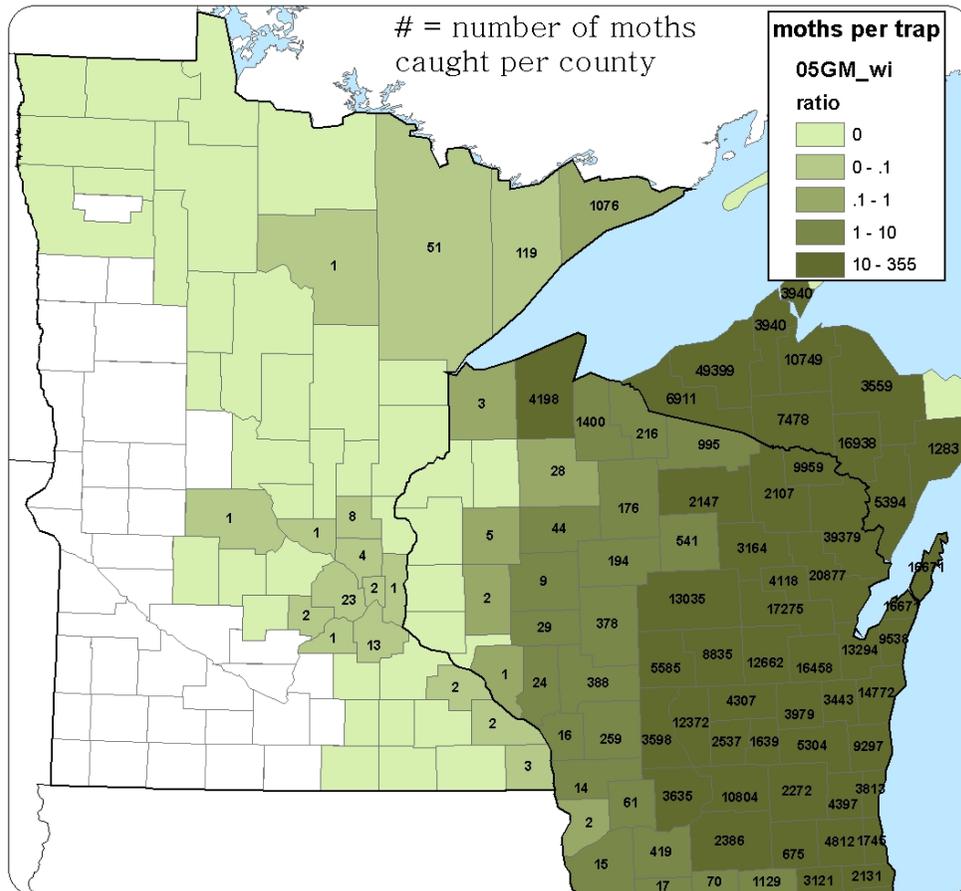


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