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Gypsy Moth Volunteer Monitoring



To help Fairfax County find gypsy moths, urban foresters seek volunteers to search their properties for egg masses. The gypsy moth is an invasive forest pest that poses a serious threat to trees in Fairfax County. Gypsy moth caterpillars feed on the leaves of hardwood and occasionally on evergreen trees. High populations of caterpillars may defoliate trees, causing stress that may lead to tree death.



When volunteers see gypsy moth egg masses on their properties they may report their findings to Fairfax County **on-line** or by calling the Urban Forest Management Division at 703-324-1770, TTY 711 or by scanning the QR code on the left that leads to the online reporting form.



Above: Adult female gypsy moths laying egg masses.

Gypsy moth egg masses are tan in color and may be seen on the trunks and upper branches of trees. They are approximately the size of a half dollar



Gypsy moth caterpillars defoliating a tree.



How to rid trees and other objects of gypsy moth egg masses:

Scrape and Destroy!

Egg masses may be found in sheltered areas, under eaves of houses, in wood piles, underneath outdoor furniture and inside bird houses.



A putty knife or similar flat-edged tool may be used to scrape gypsy moth egg masses into a container of soapy water. Allow the eggs to dry out in the container, then throw the eggs into the trash. Please do not deposit the eggs on the ground as they will hatch.

For more information or to request this fact sheet in an alternate format call 703-324-1770, TTY 711, or email

pestmail@fairfaxcounty.gov <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/gypsyffx.htm>