



Slowing the Spread of the Gypsy Moth

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Facts about the Gypsy Moth

- Since its introduction into the United States in 1869, the gypsy moth has spread to all or part of 17 States and the District of Columbia.
- The area already infested by the gypsy moth represents only 25% of the total area that will be susceptible to outbreaks as the insect spreads.
- Gypsy moth defoliates trees which makes them vulnerable to other killing agents; affects water quality; alters wildlife habitat; and hurts timber, tourism, and recreation.
- Damage from the gypsy moth often occurs in forested neighborhoods and urban parks where dead trees are a safety hazard and are expensive to remove.
- Gypsy moth affects commerce because commodities shipped to uninfested areas must be certified free of gypsy moth.

Slowing the spread would delay the damage and management costs associated with infestation of new areas. A recent pilot project demonstrated that the rate of gypsy moth spread could be slowed by at least 60% through application of the latest survey and management practices (right map).

Implementing Slow the Spread

Beginning in 1999, the USDA Forest Service, State partners and other USDA agencies anticipate national implementation of Slow the Spread, contingent on availability of funds. Across the 1,200-mile gypsy moth frontier from Wisconsin to North Carolina, implementation of Slow the Spread is expected to...

- Decrease the new territory invaded by the gypsy moth each year from 15,600 square miles to 6,000 square miles (compare maps).
- Protect forests, forest-based industries, urban and rural parks, and private property.
- Avoid at least \$22 million per year in damage and management costs.

Spread of the Gypsy Moth

Gypsy moth is spreading at a faster rate than in the past and could infest much of the South and Midwest during the next 30 years (left map).

Estimated spread of the gypsy moth with and without implementing Slow the Spread (STS).

