

## **Lymantria dispar dispar (LDD) – Gypsy Moth Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are Lymantria dispar dispar (LDD) – Gypsy Moths?**

Lymantria dispar dispar (LDD) also known as the Gypsy Moth, is an invasive insect that has been found in the Town of East Gwillimbury. This invasive insect was introduced to the United States in the late 1800s and was first detected in Ontario in 1969 and can be found in York Region and many large areas throughout the Province of Ontario.

### **Are LDD's harmful?**

LDD's are the most destructive in their larval stage. As caterpillars they will strip the foliage from a wide variety of trees by eating the leaves. Most healthy trees will recover and will grow a second set of leaves. Several years of defoliation can weaken a tree's defense system and can have a negative, long-term, impact on the tree.

### **What types of trees will the LDD affect the most?**

LDD caterpillars will eat the leaves of a variety of trees, but oak trees are the preferred food for LDD caterpillars and are therefore affected in higher numbers than other trees. During years of high populations, the caterpillars can be found on trees such as maple, elm, poplar, ash, willow, and white pine.

### **What is the Town doing to manage LDD?**

The Town of East Gwillimbury, is aware of hot-spots in the community. Information about how residents can treat LDD on trees at home is available on our website ([www.eastgwillimbury.ca/LDD](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/LDD)), on social media and in the Town Page/eNewsletter. The Town has also organized a free burlap giveaway for residents at the East Gwillimbury Farmers' Market on Thursday, June 10. The Town will continue monitoring the LDD population throughout EG and work with York Region on best practices for managing LDD.

### **Is the Town considering use of pesticide to manage LDD?**

Currently, the Town is not considering the use of any sprays/pesticides. The use of pesticide treatments, like BTK, have limited windows of time to be effective, as weather conditions and the lifecycle of the caterpillar need to be favourable. BTK also kills other caterpillars and will have a negative impact on native species of moths and butterflies. All of which have an important roll in maintaining a balanced, healthy environment such as creating an important food source for migrating and breeding birds.

# How to install a burlap trap for *Lymantria dispar* (LDD) – gypsy moth caterpillars

## Step 1:

Take a piece of burlap about 45 cm wide and wrap it, snugly, around the trunk of the tree at about chest height (1m-1.5m). Make sure it goes all the way around.



## Step 2:

Take a piece of string, rope, strong tape, or anything you have that can go all the way around the tree and tie it halfway up the piece of burlap.



## Step 3:

Fold the top of the burlap down to meet the bottom section, creating a downward facing fold or skirt.



## Step 4:

The trap is now set.



## Step 5:

Remove caterpillars daily and place them in a container of soapy water for a minimum of 24 to 48 hours, then dispose of them in your green bin. Make sure to always wear gloves and a long-sleeve shirt when doing this as the caterpillar hairs can cause skin irritations.

