



Office of
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

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Agricultural Commissioner
Henry S. Gonzales

Chief Deputy
Susan L. Johnson

Attention Residents:

October 28, 2008

This is to notify you that gypsy moths were found in your area and a quarantine has been established to prevent the spread of this pest to other areas of the state. Gypsy moths were first found in your area in June 2007 and surveys conducted since then have confirmed an active, reproducing population. The quarantine currently covers approximately five square miles (see map below). The gypsy moth's life cycle is relatively slow at just one cycle per year, so the quarantine is expected to last a minimum of two years. Updated maps, pictures, and information regarding this pest and the quarantine can be found on the internet at:
www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/GypsyMoth.

Gypsy moth caterpillars feed on hundreds of kinds of plants and are capable of defoliating trees at an alarming rate. A single gypsy moth caterpillar can eat up to one square foot of leaves per day. In the northeastern United States, where this pest arrived from Europe in the late 1800s, millions of these caterpillars emerge each spring and devour large swaths of forest and foliage. When trees are repeatedly defoliated, they are rendered more susceptible to other pests and diseases, possibly leading to tree death and an increased potential for fire and erosion.

Young larvae feed primarily on oaks, aspen, birch, willows and alder, and older larvae feed on a broader range of trees including cedar, pine, spruce and fir. Common California species such as manzanita, western hemlock, Douglas fir and live oak are also prone to damage by this pest.

Gypsy moths will lay eggs on any stationary outdoor object including trees and shrubs with persistent woody stems, firewood, logs, lumber, fencing, trailers, mobile homes, recreational vehicles, boats, outdoor furniture, garden tools and machinery, play equipment and building exteriors. ***Moving any object contaminated with gypsy moth eggs can result in the spread of this pest to new areas.***

Your cooperation is needed to help prevent the spread of a gypsy moth infestation!

Please **do not move** any of the following from your property without prior inspection (free of charge) and approval from the **Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner**:

1. Mobile homes, recreational vehicles, trailers, boats and associated equipment.
2. Outdoor household articles including furniture, garden tools and garden machinery.
3. Trees and shrubs with persistent woody stems, including green waste and garden pruning material.
4. Timber and building material including lumber, planks, poles, logs, firewood, fencing and building blocks.

***To schedule a free inspection, contact the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by calling (805)-933-2926 or
Saturday by calling (805)-665-7295.
Sunday and holiday inspections are by appointment only.***

For green waste garden pruning material from trees and shrubs:

- *Green waste may be placed (unbagged) in curbside green waste bins for normally scheduled pick-up by municipal refuse service.*
- *Green waste material may be composted and used on site.*
- *Green waste that is not picked up at the curb must be transported to an approved green waste receiving facility. Contact the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner at the number above before moving any green waste from your property.*
- *Please notify your landscaping/gardening service that they must have their transport and disposal process approved by the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Henry S. Gonzales
Agricultural Commissioner

