

### What's eating my tree? Gypsy Moth

Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) larvae hatch from late April through May. While they prefer to feed on oak trees, Gypsy Moth larvae are not particularly fussy eaters -- these chewing insects ravenously defoliate almost any type of tree, including some evergreens, over a seven-week period.

The mature larvae (fig. 2) are hairy and distinctively marked with a double row of blue dots, followed by a double row of red dots on their backs. The moth pupates during late June/early July and emerges as an adult in July and August. The male moth is brown and tan; the female (fig. 3) is white with black wavy markings. In fall, whitish-tan egg masses (fig. 1) are laid on any solid object, where the next generation overwinters.

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1. egg mass
2. mature larva
3. adult female