

Q: Are the egg masses way up high in the trees as well as down low? Are the chrysalis up high as well as down low?

A: From Julie R. Crick : They are up high and low. On structures and lawn furniture. Use binoculars to see the ones up high.

Q: Is there anyway to repel them from a particular area? I.E picnic area?

A: From Julie R. Crick : Not in the caterpillar stage. Perhaps a tent or umbrella could help.

Q : for those of us that have already committed to spraying around our houses vs. our entire acreage, how effective is the spraying in the early larval stage of the caterpillars?

A: From Julie R. Crick : if its timed correctly, it can be 80% effective. Weather depending - if it's cold after the spray, the caterpillars may not be feeding much. Spray lasts on the leaves for 5 days, unless rain.

Q : Will this discussion be posted for others who were not able to attend?

A: From Julie R. Crick : It is being recorded.

A: From Julie R. Crick : how it is posted will be up to Ms. Cross and April.

Q: ok, that's good information on the effectiveness - so ultimately it's about timing (caterpillars are <1 inch) if you're spraying. Correct?

A: From Julie R. Crick : first or second instar; under 3/8th inch. Oak leaves about half elongated. During spray humidity must be over 50% less than 10mph winds. Usually early morning. No rain.

A: From Scott Lint : Correct, Btk is applied when the caterpillars are very small.

Q: thx, that's what I've been using BTK until they are > 1 inch. Any treatment for caterpillars after they are adult sized (>2 inches)?

Q : We've applied BtK for about 3 weeks. 6 apps. Some have died. But it's not made a dent in the infestation as far as we can see.

A: From Julie R. Crick : I recommend soap and water. Scott, do you know of any effective chemical treatments for larger/older caterpillars?

A: From Julie R. Crick : Moths do not feed = no damage.

A: From Julie R. Crick : Eastern tent caterpillar are usually on cherry, they have an easier time leafing out a second time.

Q : Julie, what are you recommending we do with soap and water ? Pick up the worms and drown them?

A: From Julie R. Crick : Btk does affect other caterpillars, but the timing usually prevents too much damage to other caterpillars.

A: From Scott Lint : There are other chemical pesticides that can be used and are available at garden center that you can spray directly on the caterpillars, but most of them are very hard on pollinators and other beneficial insects.

A: From Julie R. Crick : Spraying them with soap and water seems to work, too. Dropping them in bucket of soapy water definitely works.

Q: Dunking the caterpillar in soapy water almost immediately kills them. It seems pretty effective. Could you spray the younger trees with soapy water?

A: From Julie R. Crick : Soap and water will not hurt the trees.

Q: Would it hurt other beneficial insects?

A: From Julie R. Crick : [https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/invasive\\_species/gypsy-moth/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/invasive_species/gypsy-moth/)

A: From Julie R. Crick : This is a great resource for identifying caterpillars, counting egg masses, life cycle and learning more about the virus and fungus.

Q : BTK is the only biological treatment that specifically targets gypsy moth caterpillars. Any other treatment (chemical) are indiscriminate for all other insects. Is this correct?

A: From Julie R. Crick : Soap and water could hurt other insects. Use on specific trees that are covered with gypsy moth caterpillars.

Q: Thank you!

A: From Julie R. Crick : Btk only kills young gypsy moth caterpillars. Because of the timing, few other caterpillars are affected. But yes, if they ate the leaves that had been covered with btk, other caterpillars would die.

Q: We need a solution TODAY not just talk about future forests

Q : I've sprayed BTK around our home (not our entire acreage) for ~3 weeks earlier this year. Noticeable positive difference from last year but now I have to sit and watch the surviving adults continue to munch. Isn't there also a biological pheromone spray to stop the moths from breeding?

Q : Is that the goal in Montmorency to deforest and only have new growth? The amount of timber harvest has made The spread of these invasive species!

A: From Julie R. Crick : I don't have much experience with pheromone lures. Scott may know more.

Q : My fruit trees have been hit hard. Apples especially.

Q: Our fruit trees were completely defoliated last year, this year I protected them with BTK. No problems this year with the fruit trees. My fruit trees are <25 ft high - easy to spray

Q : I will prepare for next year!

A: From Julie R. Crick : Thank you for chiming in. Yes, fruit trees are usually small enough that you can spray Btk to kill young caterpillars that eat the leaves.

A: From Scott Lint : Keep an eye on them as the caterpillars get larger and run out of food they may begin to move toward your fruit trees. You might want to consider putting tape and tanglefoot barrier bands on those trees to protect them for the next couple of weeks.

Q : I use a backpack mist sprayer - it can spray up to 45 ft high. I also use duct tape as a cheaper and easier treatment for my "must protect" trees around my house. this has also been effective

Q : Is 180K currently in the GM fund enough money to spray the county next spring?

Q : The main problem is the tall trees (>50 ft high) like the red oak and beech. this is where I use the duct tape around the tree trunks. too many trees in our acreage

Q : do any animals or birds specifically target/eat the adult caterpillars?

A: From Julie R. Crick : Yes! Birds, mice, squirrels, chipmunks all eat the caterpillars. I have not seen a bird at my feeder for three weeks - since the caterpillars hatched!! Saw a chipping sparrow fly by with one in it's mouth.

Q : Is it the Moths or the Worms that create the egg pods

A: From Julie R. Crick : Moths.

A: From Julie R. Crick : [https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/invasive\\_species/Gypsy-Moth/gypsy-moth-life-cycle](https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/invasive_species/Gypsy-Moth/gypsy-moth-life-cycle)

Q : what were those black lantern things located in Avery hills couple years ago? Answer.... I believe those were a survey for a invasive species they were looking for to see if they were in the county. It was done by a MSU student. Sorry I can't remember the exact details.

A: From Julie R. Crick : those are commonly used in insect surveys. Hard to say which specific insect they were trying to collect.

Q : emerald ash borer

Q : Invasive species. Can't we collaborate with MSU and skip the sampling. Save money forget the survey.

A: From Julie R. Crick : Survey would save money ultimately b/c only properties with high density of egg masses would be sprayed.

Q : I have seen areas that are not as bad as the Atlanta area, but they will be if nothing is done

Q : Spray household properties only - bypass forest properties. This would be targeted vs. entire Montmorency county

Q : Who is the "grant writer" for our county?

Q : Couldn't citizens participate in an "egg count" survey online?

Q: Did Roscommon renew their millage or is it now gone?

Q : We've been staying away. But plan on coming up this weekend. I'm hoping I still have trees with leaves.

A: From Julie R. Crick : Expired Dec, 2019. On the ballot in August for renewal.

Q : Is there a list of contractors that you can share?

A: From Julie R. Crick : I'll send it to April and Christi.

Q: At the beginning they said the money was already spent, now it has been sitting waiting for 14 years? How is both possible?

A: From Cody Stevens : Sorry everyone, I need to step away from the meeting. If anyone has DNR related forestry questions feel free to email me at: [stevensc@michigan.gov](mailto:stevensc@michigan.gov)

Q: I would pay myself! I would like a list of contractors. Will the list be posted to the website?

Q: Pesticide applicators can spray up to 200 feet high with a spray truck from the ground. That was for everyone.

Q: it seems to me that the pods are mostly on the bottom of the branches will top spraying reach them

A: From Scott Lint : By pods I think you are referring to egg masses, sprays are used to reach the caterpillar after they hatch from the eggs and begin feeding.

A: From Scott Lint : You can contact Cody Stevens at the Atlanta DNR Office if you have questions about the local state forest management.