

The Gypsy Moth Battle

It's now the middle of March and soon the eggs will hatch and start a new season of leaf eating!

The best method to reduce the damage is collect the egg sacs before they hatch.

If they are within reach, they can easily be scraped off with a knife. The eggs have a hard-outer shell so they will not be killed if you simply step on them. If you get them between a flat rock and your shoe you may be able to grind back and forth and pop the eggs. You need to collect them and then burn them.

Find the nest on sheltered surfaces away from the weather, such as the underside of steps or underside of tree branches or in the grooves of the bark.

Scrape into a container:



Transfer the eggs onto several paper towels and roll up for the fire



For the nests higher in the branches you can use a shop vac with a brush attachment attached to a tree pruning pole.



For even higher nests a truck gives another metre in height.



Before



After

As with hand scrapping, you must burn the eggs found in the shop vac cannister and filter.



There is a natural soil bacterium that caterpillars are sensitive to and it will kill them if eaten. You need to dilute this and spray on the trees you wish to protect. The caterpillars will eat happily for one day and then stop eating and die.

