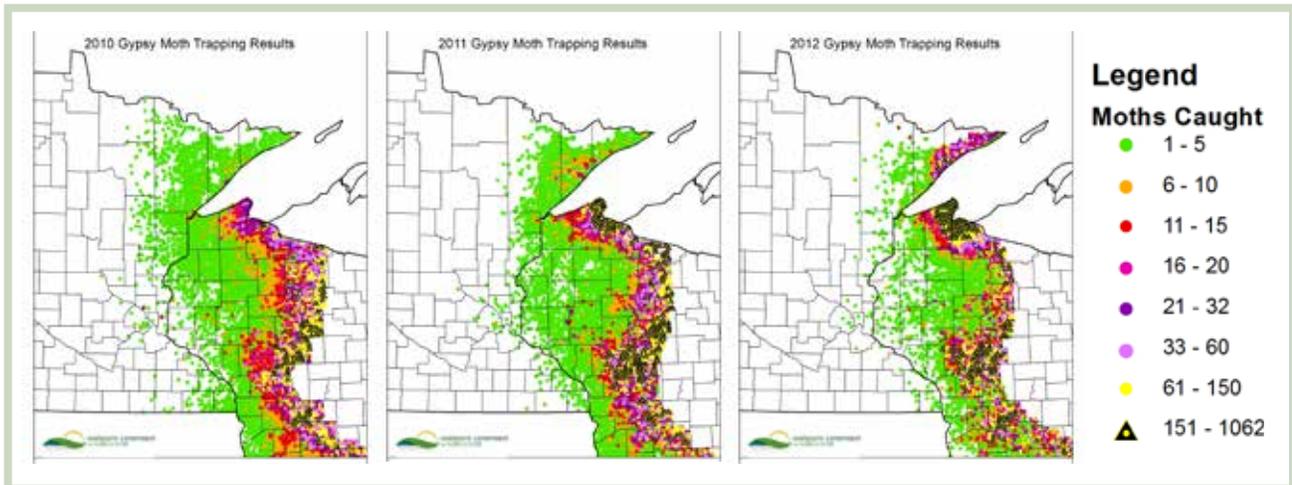


Arrest the Pest (888-545-6684)

Gypsy Moth Quarantine Proposal for Lake & Cook Counties in Minnesota

Gypsy Moth Background

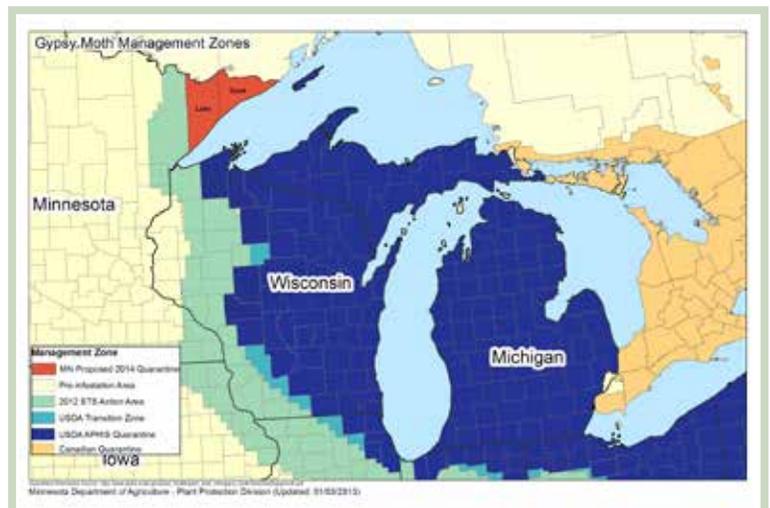
Ranked among America's most destructive forest pests, the gypsy moth has caused millions of dollars in damage to woodlands as it advanced from New England to Wisconsin. Gypsy moth caterpillars can defoliate large sections of forest, causing ecological harm to the landscape, economic harm to forest resource industries, and a nuisance for people. These hungry pests are found throughout Wisconsin and are now establishing populations in eastern Minnesota. Nationwide, a system of trapping, treatments, and regulations has kept Minnesota gypsy moth-free for decades, but in recent years moths have been trapped in increasing numbers along the North Shore. Therefore, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is proposing a quarantine of Lake and Cook Counties in the spring of 2014 to restrict movement of potentially infested items and thereby contain the infestation.



The MDA's annual survey has noted a marked increase of moths over time in the Arrowhead region.

Since the first treatments around Schroeder in 2006, the MDA has taken action to prevent and stifle the growth of gypsy moth populations in Lake and Cook Counties. Populations have now grown to a point where treatments are ineffective.

Minnesota will be the 21st state to be completely or partially quarantined for this invasive species. Quarantines in other states have benefitted Minnesota's forest resources by keeping them gypsy-moth free until now.



Lake and Cook Counties are the latest to be considered infested by gypsy moths.

General Quarantine Information

The MDA's goal in establishing quarantines is to prevent the human-assisted spread of a dangerous or destructive pest or disease organism, in this case, the gypsy moth, from known infested areas into non-infested areas. Depending on the quarantine pest, certain items are called "regulated articles" because they have the highest risk of spreading the pest. The following items are federally designated as regulated articles for gypsy moth:

1. Trees and woody shrubs with roots (nursery stock) and trees without roots (Christmas trees).
2. Logs, pulpwood, bark and bark products.
3. Mobile homes and associated outdoor household articles (residential and camping equipment).
4. Any other products, articles, or means of conveyance that may spread gypsy moths.

There are no legal restrictions on movement of regulated articles within contiguous quarantined areas. Regulated articles can move into quarantined areas unrestricted but once inside, all regulated articles become subject to quarantine restrictions. It is illegal to move these regulated articles out of a quarantine area unless they are accompanied by an MDA certificate (when destined for another site in Minnesota) or a joint MDA/USDA certificate (when moving across state borders). Certificates are only available when a compliance agreement is signed by the company, city, county, agency, or organization interested in moving the regulated article.

The quarantine is designed to limit the movement of high-risk materials but, at the same time, provide options for moving regulated articles pest-free and so as not to hinder commerce.

Compliance Agreements

A compliance agreement (CA) allows regulated articles to move out of a quarantine area by defining how they will be handled to mitigate the spread of gypsy moth. CAs are documents prepared and agreed to by the company and the MDA. A CA or other certification must be finalized before any regulated items are transported to or through a non-quarantined area.

An MDA official will be available to determine if a CA is needed and to answer questions about the requirements or business practices. Training opportunities will be offered before and after quarantine implementation for a seamless transition. Out-of-state movement of regulated articles requires additional federal certification.

More information

Your comments on this proposal are very important. Please take time to complete our survey at: www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsymoth.

Details about compliance agreements, inspection requirements, and more will be made public well before the Spring 2014 implementation. Stay apprised of new information through your forest resources professional organization. For further questions about gypsy moth or this proposal, contact the MDA at 888-545-6684 (voicemail) or gypsy.moth@mda.state.mn.us.