

LDD* Moth Infestations in Lanark County

The goal for the LDD* moth infestation in Lanark County is to:

- maintain LDD moth pest populations at tolerable levels in terms of the tree impacts, effects on human health, and safety; and
- reduce the frequency and severity of future outbreaks

*The Latin name for the European Gypsy Moth is *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD). Note we are transitioning to the term LDD moth following the announcement officially dropping the name “gypsy moth”.

Lanark County’s Role in the LDD Moth Infestation

Lanark County’s role in the LDD moth infestation is to provide landowners with education and awareness to reduce infestations on their own property. Landowners should be aware of how to identify LDD moth infestations and how to manage infestation levels. Lanark County provides education and awareness through a combination of website content, social media, press releases, factsheets, and outreach.

Lanark County does not actively manage LDD moth populations, which is a common approach for pest outbreaks in Canada. Not managing pest populations can be the most practical option because pest outbreaks come and go. Based on the historical record of LDD moths in North America and Ontario, it is likely that the current outbreak in the County of Lanark will collapse naturally over the next several years. As described in scientific reports, predators, parasites, and pathogens will bring about a significant decrease in LDD moth populations to low endemic levels.

Education and Awareness

Lanark County provides landowners with education and awareness to reduce infestations on their own property including how to destroy egg masses, burlap bands, eradication of caterpillars, and biological control.

Destroying egg masses

Finding and destroying egg masses is a management technique that homeowners can use to reduce LDD moth damage to their properties. Finding egg masses on trees is the easiest from fall until early spring when the leaves are off the trees. Egg masses can be found on the tree trunks, under branches, on rocks, woodpiles, fences, or almost any other surface. These masses can be scraped into a container of soaping water and soaked for one week to ensure masses have been destroyed and cannot hatch.

Burlap Barrier Bands

Burlap bands wrapped around trees is a control method that takes advantage of the movement of LDD moth larvae in the spring during the day. Bands should be 30 to 45cm wide and fastened to trees at chest height. Use twine to loosely tie the middle of



the bands to the trees and fold the tops of bands over the bottoms. Check the bands daily and remove the larvae and dispose of them in buckets of soapy water.

Caterpillar Disposal

After removing caterpillars from outdoor surfaces, they can be disposed of in a soap and water mixture. Allow for enough time to soak before dumping the soap and water mixture.

Biological Control

Homeowners can use a biopesticide for small scale treatment of shrubs and small trees on their properties to protect them from defoliation. The biopesticide registered in Canada for control of LDD moths is *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BTK). Homeowners should use under their own discretion and call a licensed applicator to perform where necessary.

Private landowners may arrange aerial spray application of BTK from a licenced pest control contractor during the spring season. Lanark County does not arrange or partake in aerial spray procedures.