



Halton Master Gardeners

Caterpillar Question

Please help identify these caterpillars, please and thanks! For the past two days these guys have been gathering on my beautiful beech tree.

(I'm praying not gypsy moths but I wouldn't be surprised)



Answer:

The European Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar* L.) has been a forest pest in Canada for nearly a century. As this is the first time your tree has suffered from an infestation, follow the following protocol:

1. May to July: Pick caterpillars off leaves, tree trunks and branches and soak them in soapy water to destroy them.
2. May to September: Install burlap wraps around tree trunks and then collect and destroy caterpillars and pupae.
3. June to August: Use pheromone traps to catch and confuse male Moths.
4. August to May: Look for Gypsy Moth Egg Masses, scrape them off and destroy.



See more information and photos of burlapping, trapping and searching here:

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/parks-gypsy-moth>

C. Kavassalis – July 2019