

Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM)

Lymantria dispar (Linnaeus)

Be on the lookout for this significant pest of trees and shrubs.

For positive identification, please forward any suspects to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Plant Protection and Quarantine

1398 West Truck Rd., Otis Laboratory

Buzzards Bay, MA 02542

Phone: (508) 563-0900



Adult moths. Adult female AGMs (left) are white or tan, about 3 cm long, with a wingspan of 7 cm or more. Adult males (right) are smaller and darker, with a wingspan of 4 to 5 cm.

Egg mass. Females often lay their egg masses (about 4 cm long by 2 cm wide) in sheltered locations (e.g., in crevices or cavities, under tarps, behind walls and doors, and underneath the hold rims of a ship). Egg masses also might be on exposed surfaces, especially near light fixtures, which attract the female moths.



First- (top) and fourth-instar larvae. When AGM eggs hatch during warm weather, the insects emerge as caterpillars and grow through several life stages called instars. Note how much the caterpillars grow between the first and the penultimate (fourth) instar. These larvae climb rapidly, and the smallest instars could be transported from the ship by blowing silk strands.

Pupa. After AGM larvae reach the fifth instar, they pass into the pupal stage, when they develop into an adult moth inside a hard pupal case. This stage typically occurs in the spring or summer. Pupal cases can be attached to exposed surfaces or concealed in sheltered spaces.