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Barrier Bands to Suppress Gypsy Moth Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service March 1991 2 pages

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Barrier bands are effective tools for the homeowner to use to reduce the number of gypsy moth caterpillars in trees around the home. The bands trap or repel caterpillars as they move up and down trees or onto homes. There are two types of barrier bands: sticky bands and slippery bands.

Sticky bands trap caterpillars when they crawl on the sticky surface of the bands. There are sticky tapes and Tanglefoot, a sticky vegetable-based substance, which are applied around tree trunks about four feet above the ground. Applying Tanglefoot directly to the trunk may permanently discolor the bark. Placing a tree wrap (such as tarpaper) around the tree before applying Tanglefoot protects the bark. Slippery bands are applied to the tree trunk in the same manner as sticky tapes. The slippery surface of the bands prevent caterpillars from crawling across their slippery surface.

Place barrier bands on yard trees or around foundations of homes early in May when the caterpillars hatch. Replace sticky bands if they become covered with caterpillars or dirt. Both types of bands can be used below a fabric band (see Extension Bulletin E-2300, Cloth Banding Trees to Suppress the Gypsy Moth). Remove bands from trees after the gypsy moth completes its life cycle in August.

For more information, contact your Cooperative Extension Service county office.



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