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IN YOUR GARDEN GYPSY MOTH DAMAGE UNLIKELY THIS YEAR

In spite of all the publicity about Gypsy moth in Chicagoland you won't need to spray your trees this spring, James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County reports that Entomologists have found too few caterpillars to cause much damage, so homeowner measures are not needed.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has located scattered Gypsy moth infestations throughout much of northeastern Illinois. Efforts to eradicate the small infestations have alerted the public to the damaging potential of these insects. Although quite a few adult male moths were caught last year from these infestations, they represent a relatively small number of insects compared to outbreaks in other parts of the U.S. In the northeastern U.S. Gypsy moths are present in high enough numbers to quickly eat all of the leaves off of the trees. Evergreens are killed by a single defoliation. Deciduous trees will usually put out new leaves, but several years of damage weaken the trees so that they are killed by borers or diseases.

Fizzell says there are two other kinds of caterpillars feeding in trees right now. They are the inchworm (cankerworms) and the Eastern tent caterpillars which makes the triangular webs in trees.

Gypsy moths feed in large groups but do not live in the silk tents. The caterpillars are hairy and have two rows of conspicuous red and blue dots on their backs. They eat the leaves of most trees, particularly oaks.

Homeowners in infested areas here are concerned that

their trees will become harmed by these insects. Although the Gypsy moth is present, its numbers are not large enough to cause severe feeding damage. So you will not need to use insecticide sprays or other control measures to protect your trees this summer.

New infestations of Gypsy moth are usually carried into Illinois from infested areas in the northeastern U.S. by way of household moves. If new residents in your neighborhood are from New England or other infested parts of the Northeast, Fizzell recommends that municipal or state personnel be notified. Their inspections of outdoor furniture, firewood, and vehicles are likely to find and eliminate new infestations before they get established.

James A. Fizzell Senior Extension Adviser, Horticulture

For the first time the III. PGA is holding an exemption from qualifying at the Illinois Open held at Bon Vivant Country Club near Kankakee - for one golf course superintendent. We have decided to have a medal play, playoff on July 21st at Bon Vivant for this spot. Any golf course superintendent in the state of Illinois may enter the playoff.

Our status in the golfing world has once again gained a "first ever" as Bon Vivant Country Club has extended to us the privilege of having a representative from the ranks of the Illinois Green Superintendents participate in the Illinois Open on August 2, 3 and 4. This will be possible because Bon Vivant has offered to give us one of their exemptions.

This tournament will be open to any superintendent or assistant who can win the qualifying tournament which will be held June 21 at Bon Vivant Country Club. It will be an 18 hole event with the best score advancing to the Open to represent us in the \$50,000 State Open which is the richest in their history.

The June 21 event will not be limited to the better players as we will be running a separate event in addition to those qualifying who would like to come, play, and meet with your superintendents from throughout the state. The only eligibility requirement for play in the Illinois Open Tournament is that you must be a resident of Illinois.

In addition to giving us the golf course for a qualifying tournament, Merlin Karlock, Bon Vivant's owner, has extended an invitation to all superintendents and assistants to come and watch the State Open as his personal guest. Gate admission will be free of charge to those showing either their State or National Association Membership card. In addition, Bon Vivant will provide all superintendents and assistants with a free buffet lunch which will be shared with the Illinois Open Tournament players.

Don't miss this opportunity to compete with the best players that the State of Illinois has to offer. Make your entry as soon as possible as we do not want to miss the opportunity of making our first appearance in the Illinois Open.

> Tournament Co-Chairman Golf Course Superintendent

