

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that we are in the last few weeks of the season and we can relax a little, it is time to look back and analyze 1980.

However the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association has two events coming up that everyone should be very interested in.

The Symposium is Back at the Pfister Hotel October 29 & 30. The topic will be "Sand Top Dressing" pro and con.

In the past the Wisconsin Superintendents have been

very conspicuous by their absence. It sure seems if Superintendents are interested enough to travel from several states and Canada that it sure would be worth while for the local superintendents.

Our annual meeting will be held in November. This is the election meeting along with our regular business. It sure would be nice to have better participation. It is your organization, be proud of it, participate and it will become a much stronger association.

Woody Voigt



Gypsy Moth

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The gypsy moth *Lymantria dispar*, which is one of our more destructive forest insects, may also be one of our more serious shade tree pests. Since its accidental introduction from Europe into Massachusetts in 1869, outbreaks have occurred at intervals of a few to many years. Originally, outbreaks caused severe forest tree damage in Massachusetts but in recent years moderate forest tree weakening is the rule while shade trees suffer more stress and perhaps eventual death.

Severe infestation usually results in partial defoliation of conifers (evergreens) as well as deciduous trees. Complete defoliation of conifers may kill them in one season with the exception of pitch pine, which requires a longer period to be killed. One should do nothing for control if he or she is willing to tolerate defoliated trees, tree stress, possible tree death from the immediate defoliation, longer range injurious effects from secondary pests, a general mess of bits of chewed leaves, caterpillar excrement (pessets dropping from trees) caterpillars crawling on the trees and later on/ or in the house and property for a few weeks annually over a period of three or four years. If these penalties are unacceptable then there is a wide choice of control materials available and many skilled professional-arborist applicator who may be consulted to provide relief and protect trees.

Typically, a population builds up for three or four years and, by then, the abundant caterpillars are so stressed

by competition for food that, when weather conditions are suitable, they succumb to a virus disease. The disease so reduces their numbers that a troublesome build up is not seen again for a number of years. It is during these early years after a population collapse that the gypsymoth parasites, which are chiefly different species of wasps and flies, exert their greatest benefit. Eventually though, the parasites can no longer keep the increasing insect population in check and once again an expanded outbreak occurs. There seems to be no specific act that triggers an outbreak and the time interval between outbreaks remains unpredictable.

Properly planned control programs will reduce infestations and protect trees and provide relief to home owners during peak outbreaks of the pest. No attempt should be made to eradicate gypsy moth since this is not possible, at least with present knowledge.

Description: The male gypsy moth is dark brown with blackish bands across its forewings. The female moth is nearly white and has wavy blackish bands across its forewings. The mature caterpillar is hairy and about 1½-2½ inches long. The head has yellow markings, the body is slate colored, and on the back there is a double row of five pairs of blue spots followed by a double row of six pairs of red spots. The pupae is reddish brown with a sprinkling of reddish hairs.

Distribution: The gypsy moth has now become estab-