WISCONSIN GYPSY MOTH STATUS REPORT

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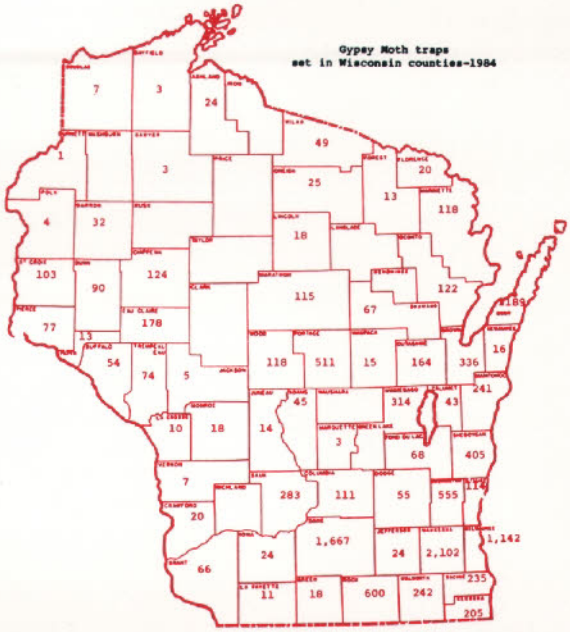


Thanks to all of you who cooperated in gypsy moth trapping this year. Mr. Harold Line and I appreciate your help very much. Your trapping complemented the trapping done by our summer employees very nicely; in some cases traps set by cooperators were the only ones set in the whole county.

Approximately 11,480 delta traps were set in 61 Wisconsin counties for control, delimitation and detection of gypsy moth infestations in 1984. This number is second only to the record 13,000 traps set in 60 counties last year. As in previous years, trapping was a cooperative effort between the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, many municipal and county Forestry Departments, and also many private cooperators.

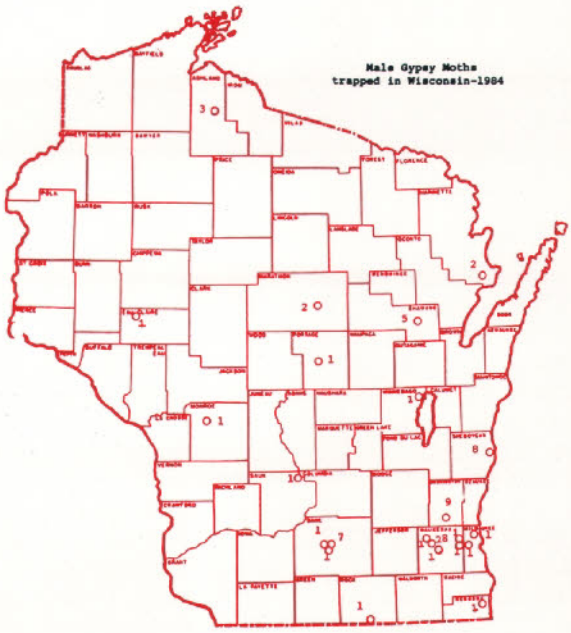
Statewide, 79 male moths were captured, continuing the trend of decreasing catches since 1981, when 365 moths were trapped. Infestations identified and delimited in the last 3 years have been increasingly smaller and have not inflated total numbers to cause noticeable peaks.

Delimitation of multiple catches failed to lead to identification of any infestations in Madison (Dane County), Wisconsin Dells (Columbia County), and Lake Delton (Sauk County).

The infestation in Elm Grove (Waukesha County) appears to have been eradicated. The infestation in Monona (Dane County) is down from 236 moths at the peak in 1981 to 7 moths this year, we hope that trapping next year will show that the infestation is eradicated.

An infestation in Hubertus, Washington County, was found to be restricted to one property. It was treated with high density trapping this year, and a second year of high density trapping is planned for 1985, possibly combined with ground spray of a pesticide.

The infestation in the neighboring townships of Summit and Oconomowoc, Waukesha County, has had a long and eventful history since 1978, when 666 male moths Multiple catches, indicating possible infestations, were also found in Bonduel (Shawano County), and Sheboygan in Sheboygan County. Male moths continue to be trapped in Mellen (Ashland County) around a lumber mill which gets logs from low risk gypsy moth areas in the northeastern United States. Gypsy moths were also trapped here in 1981 and 1982. While the numbers have never been very large, there does seem to be a problem of reintroduction on logs, and continued trapping is indicated.

As you may know, gypsy moth infestations, like so many other things, tend to go in cycles. While trapping results in the last few years have been very encouraging, we do need to maintain our trapping efforts so that we can detect infestations in the early stages, when treatment and eradication are still relatively easy.

I hope that you will continue to cooperate in gypsy moth trapping in the coming year, which I hope will be a very happy one for you and yours!