

Gypsy Moth Tree Damage Trebled Over Past Year

Gypsy moth defoliation of trees in northeastern woodlands totaled 260,000 acres this year, more than triple last year's defoliated acreage, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Officials of USDA's Agricultural Research Service are openly pessimistic about the possibility of keeping gypsy moths restricted to the presently infested areas in the northeast. Plant pest control officials explain that heavy gypsy moth populations are building up, and that the moths are spreading much more rapidly as a result. If allowed to spread into the commercial hardwood forests of the Allegheny, Appalachian, and Ozark Mountain regions, the moths could cause tremendous economic damage, officials warn.

Gypsy moth damage this year is concentrated in southeastern New York, including especially hard-hit Long Island, northern New Jersey,

southeastern Connecticut, and some scattered areas in Pennsylvania, according to plant pest officials.

In their caterpillar form, gypsy moths strip the leaves from forest, shade, and fruit trees, as well as ornamental shrubs. By defoliating forests, they increase fire and erosion hazards, adversely affect stream flow, reduce land and recreational values, and destroy wildlife habitats. Officials point out that a single defoliation has been known to kill white pine, spruce, and hemlock; two defoliations have been known to kill hardwoods.

Gypsy moths were imported into the United States in 1869 by a Medford, Mass., naturalist. Some escaped and eventually spread throughout New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Recently, male moths have been found deep into Delaware. Gypsy moth defoliation of trees has fluctuated over the years, but reached a high of almost 1½ million acres in 1953.

D. R. Shepherd, director of the ARS Plant Pest Control Division, said that the problem of gypsy moth

spread is compounded by persons unknowingly giving these pests a ride into new areas. He pointed out that gypsy moths can be spread long distances rapidly by the movement of timber and timber products, quarry products, nursery products, and by trailers and camping equipment.

The problem of campers giving gypsy moths a free ride was highlighted recently when a plant pest control inspector discovered gypsy moth egg masses at a number of camp sites in Connecticut. A trace-back of trailers that had left the camp sites after the start of the moths' egg laying season revealed that some of the trailers had carried gypsy moth egg masses as far away as Minnesota, Wisconsin, Virginia, Texas, and Florida. Plant pest inspectors destroyed the egg masses.

Shepherd said that this problem and others can be lessened if campers or visitors of gypsy moth infested areas check with a county agent or plant pest inspector to make sure they have complied with quarantine regulations designed to prevent the long distance spread of gypsy moths.

Industry People On the Move



The Davey Tree Expert Company, Kent, Ohio, has created and filled two new posts. T. A. Baer has been named general sales manager of tree care services, and T. L. Booth has been appointed general sales manager of utility services.

Baer will head all territorial sales activities in residential, institutional and government tree care service. Booth has charge of line clearance, chemical brush control, right-of-way maintenance and other utility services.

Baer, who joined the company in 1940, was appointed foreman in 1946 and general foreman of the St. Louis-Southern Illinois territory in 1951. In 1957 he became sales representative in the Louisville area, and transferred to company headquarters as assistant sales manager in 1966.

Booth joined the company in 1941, and was appointed foreman soon after attending the Davey Institute of Tree Service in 1948. In 1965, he was promoted to special assistant in the sales department of the home office.

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Amchem Products, Inc., Ambler, Pa., has named Rodney M. Reeser sales representative, according to M. B. Turner, vice-president and general manager. Reeser, a member of the American Hereford Association, formerly was a branch manager trainee for Monsanto Company. He studied agriculture at Southern Illinois University.

Greenlife Products Company, West Point, Va., maker of pine bark base mulches, soil conditioners and fertilizers, has elected Edward F. Kelley president.

Kelley, an Amherst College graduate, holds a master's degree in business administration from Harvard. He joined Chesapeake Corp., Greenlife's parent company, as marketing research manager in 1960. When Greenlife started production in 1962, he was named its general manager, and has recently served as its vice-president.

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Turf-Vac, Long Beach, Calif., announces the appointments of W. H. "Bill" Nolt as eastern district manager, and Henry White as manager of manufacturing.

Nolt will have charge of distributor development in Turf-Vac's eastern district, and will operate from the company's Worthington, Ohio, offices. Prior to joining Turf-Vac, he was associated with Rickel, Inc., of Kansas City, Mo., in the sale of agricultural equipment.

In his new position, White will direct manufacturing operations from the company's Long Beach headquarters. Before coming to Turf-Vac, White served as manager of production control with the American Pipe and Construction Company.

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Morton Chemical Company, a subsidiary of Morton International, Inc., announces the addition of James C. Vlazny as research chemist at the company's Woodstock, Ill., laboratories.

Vlazny, who holds a doctorate degree from the University of Wisconsin, will specialize in research on organic chemicals with particular emphasis on compounds with pesticidal activity.

Before joining Morton Chemical, Vlazny was an assistant professor of chemistry at Virginia Military Institute.