

BURLAP BANDS: Do your part to reduce the gypsy moth population

If you live in the Village of Lincolnshire and you have Oak trees on your property, chances are that you also have Gypsy Moths.

Gypsy Moth Caterpillars (which feast on the leaves of Oak trees from mid May to late June) can reach population numbers high enough to completely defoliate your oak trees. If gypsy moth numbers are not kept in check, many trees could be killed.

For the last five years, the Village of Lincolnshire has conducted aerial spraying operations, in an effort to limit gypsy moth damage. However, not all areas of the Village get sprayed each year (and many gypsy moth caterpillars survive in areas that do get sprayed. For these reasons, the Village Forester recommends that Lincolnshire residents “Burlap Band” their oak trees and take an active role in reducing gypsy moth numbers.

To make your own (gypsy moth collecting) Burlap Bands follow these three simple steps:

1. Tie a piece of twine, rope, or string around your tree. (The string should be tight enough to stay in place, but not so tight that you can't fit fabric between the tree and the string).
2. Cut a length of burlap (or other dark/natural colored fabric). Make it at about a foot (12 inches) wide and long enough to encircle the entire tree trunk. Slip the fabric between the tree trunk and the string (that you tied in step 1), so that half of the fabric is above the string and half is below. Then simply fold the fabric over the string, and you will have a functional Gypsy Moth Collecting Burlap Band.



3. Now all you have to do is check your Burlap Bands (a couple times each day) and destroy any Gypsy Moth caterpillars that you find. Some people like to squish the ugly buggers where they find them, while other people simply scrap them into a bucket of very soapy water and let them sit for a while. The most important thing is making sure that they are dead.

The Village of Lincolnshire and your trees need YOUR help. Install Gypsy Moth Collecting Burlap Bands on your oak trees, and remember to check them daily. Every gypsy moth caterpillar you destroy means that there will be approximately 500 fewer caterpillars on your property next year.

Burlap is sold at most lawn/garden centers, hardware stores, and fabric shops. As always, if you have any questions, contact Lydia Scott, Environmental Services Supervisor.