

# Monster Caterpillar



What's the number one tree pest in the USA? It's the gypsy moth caterpillar. These large, hungry pests eat the leaves of trees in early summer. This is the hardest time for trees to repair themselves. Gypsy moth caterpillars damage and kill trees.

Gypsy moth caterpillars also bug humans. In early summer, they hang and drop from trees. They mess up outdoor areas where humans like to relax. Their hair also causes allergic reactions in some people.

What kinds of trees do gypsy moths like best?  
To find out, unscramble the trees this caterpillar ate.

## WORD BANK

apple  
aspen  
basswood  
birch  
blue spruce  
crabapple  
oak  
poplar  
white pine  
willow

- |                 |                     |                       |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. kao _____    | 5. braplape _____   | 9. dowosab _____      |
| 2. pasen _____  | 6. crihb _____      |                       |
| 3. loprap _____ | 7. etwhi nepi _____ | 10. elub scepur _____ |
| 4. plape _____  | 8. wloliw _____     |                       |



Learn to identify the gypsy moth in every stage of development. Number the life cycle stages in right order, from egg to adult.



A

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B

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C

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D

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<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/C62362.html>

Travelers and campers beware! Check your belongings for gypsy moth caterpillars and pupal cases. Don't give gypsy moths a ride to other forests or areas!

### Tip for Grow-ups:

When planting trees, choose species that gypsy moths don't eat. Try Ailsh, Dogwood, Juniper, Larch, Sycamore, Amelanchier, Honeylocust, or Northern Catalpa.



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