

Protect Trees from Gypsy Moth with Burlap Barrier Bands

Make barrier bands using burlap and twine to trap gypsy moth caterpillars as they hide to escape the afternoon heat.

In counties (like Roscommon) with a spray treatment program, wait one week after the spray to apply barrier bands.

STEP 1: Cut a strip of burlap 12-18" by at least 12".

It is not necessary for the burlap to circle the entire circumference of the trunk.

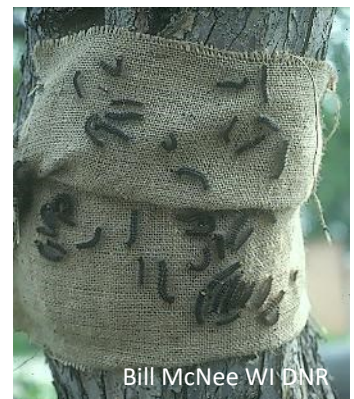
STEP 2: Tie a thick string around the tree about 4' off the ground. The string should cross the center of the burlap band, allowing the top 6" of burlap to flop over to make a two-layered skirt.

If you also have a sticky barrier band on the tree, place the burlap band a few inches above the sticky barrier band.



STEP 3: Maintain barrier bands.

- Check the bands every day from early afternoon until about 6 p.m.
- Wear gloves or use a paintbrush to knock gathered caterpillars into a bucket of soapy water and let sit for 24 hours.
- Take the barrier bands down in September after the gypsy moths have laid their egg masses. They may lay their egg masses under the burlap. These masses will be easy to harvest in winter/early spring after the Roscommon County Gypsy Moth program has completed its survey of egg masses. (Remove bands before winter to avoid damaging trees.)



SOURCE: University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension

For more information on gypsy moth, visit the Roscommon County Gypsy Moth Program:
www.roscommoncounty.net/218/Gypsy-Moth-Program