

Sustainable Forest Management

2016 Facts & Statistics

Spring 2017 ISBN 978-1-4601-4434-3 ISSN 2371-0489
ISBN 978-1-4601-4415-0 ISSN 2368-4917
Agriculture and Forestry

Gypsy Moth

Gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) is one of the most serious introduced pests of tree species in Canada. It prefers to feed on the leaves of oak trees, which are not native to Alberta's forests. However, it can damage and kill other deciduous tree species, such as maple, alder, birch, poplar, cherry, plum, willow, and many other tree and shrub species in Alberta.

Gypsy moth is not currently established in Alberta. However, annual surveys are conducted to detect the presence of gypsy moth.

The department assists the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) by setting up tent-shaped traps, known as Delta traps (Figure 1), with the synthetic female gypsy moth's sex pheromone lures (attractants) to attract gypsy male moths.

In the summer, these Delta traps are set up in areas of high public use, such as campgrounds. If a moth is captured, the site

can be monitored closely and appropriate action can be taken.

Figure 1. A Delta trap used for gypsy moth



Photo credit: Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Statistics

In 2016, 73 pheromone-baited traps were deployed throughout the Green Area by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry staff.

Due to its huge economic impacts in other parts of North America, CFIA performs two years of intensive delimitation surveys (i.e. intensive grid sampling) around positive trap catch sites.

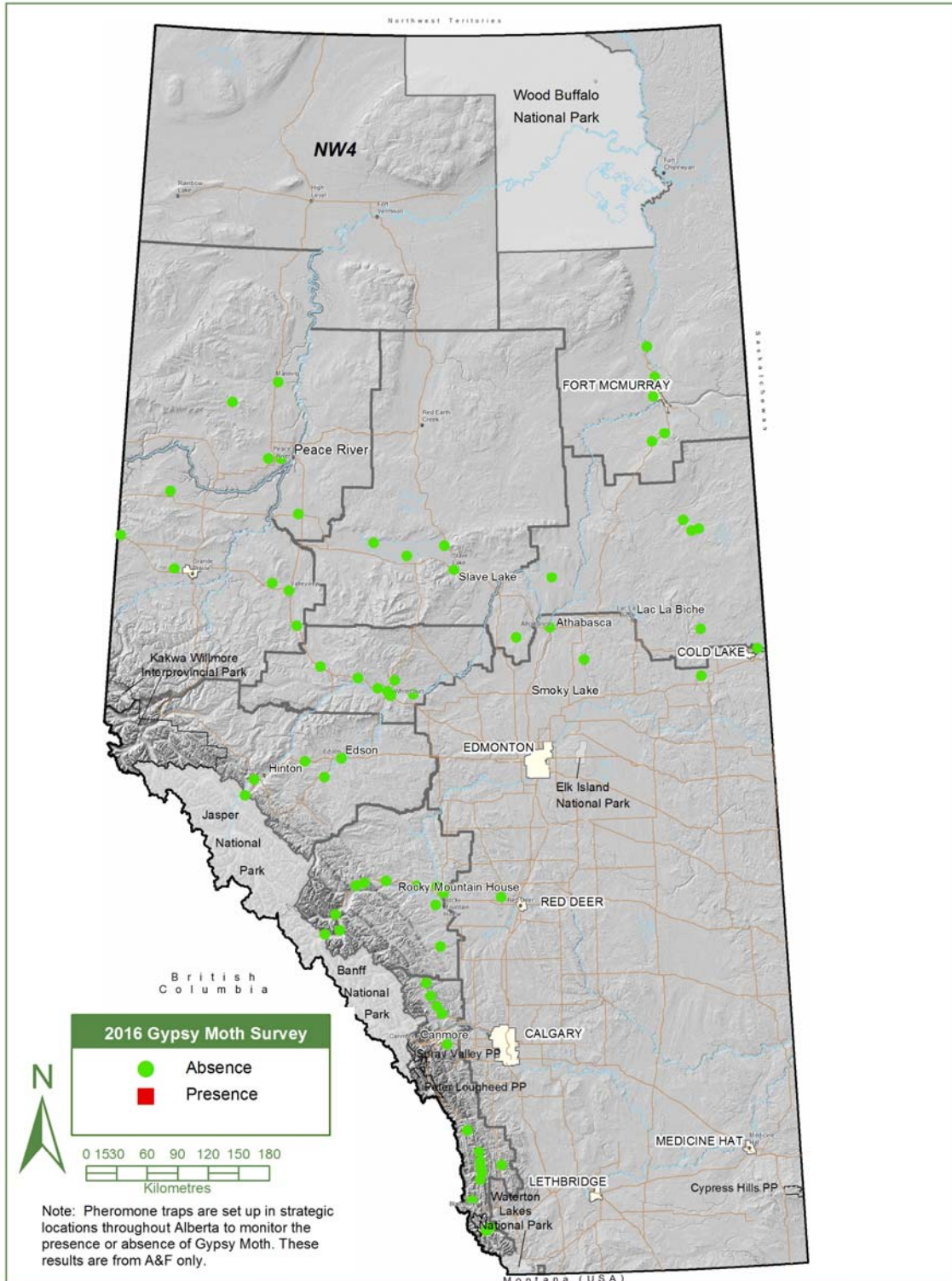
The intensive grid survey conducted around Gregoire Lake Provincial Park in 2016 did not capture any moths.



Photo Credit: John Ghent, Bugwood.org

Statistics cont'd

Table 1. Results of gypsy moth surveys carried out by using pheromone-baited traps on Alberta public land, 2016¹



Historical Trends

None of the traps placed by the department on Alberta public land have ever detected the presence of gypsy moth. However, some

municipalities (Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat) have recorded gypsy moths in their traps.

Future Outlook

The department will continue to place the traps in high public-use locations in forested areas. Increased movement of people and equipment into Alberta will increase the likelihood of

introduction of this species. Figure 4 shows the significant damage caused by gypsy moths.

Figure 4. Examples of the damage (left) caused by gypsy moth young larvae feeding (right)



Photos courtesy of:
Canadian Food Inspection Agency.