

# Officials plan to spray in Portland to stop Asian gypsy moths

## Bt spraying will take place next spring

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**  
Capital Bureau

### Asian gypsy moth



Adult male  
Courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

**Binomial name:** *Lymantria dispar asiatica*

**Appearance:** Adult males have grayish-brown wings with darker bands and a wingspan of 1 1/2 inches. Adult females are white and much larger with a wingspan of 3 1/2 inches.

**Diet:** More than 600 species of trees and shrubs, including larch, oak, poplar, alder, willow and some evergreens.

**Life cycle:** Four stages; egg, larva, pupa and moth. Eggs are laid between June-September and remain dormant through winter to hatch the following spring.

**Origin:** Far East countries such as China, Russia and Japan.

**First observed in N. America:** 1991 near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Source: USDA APHIS

Capital Press graphic

PORTLAND — Oregon farm regulators plan to spray more than 8,000 acres in Portland next spring to prevent the establishment of the Asian gypsy moth, a destructive pest found in the area this year.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture plans to first conduct extensive outreach before applying *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a biological pesticide that destroys the insect's ability to digest.

"This is a pretty significant deal for us, especially since we will have to apply the Bt aerially around Portland," said Katy Coba, the department's director, during a meeting Wednesday of the Oregon Board of Agriculture in Portland.

The treatment is sensitive as it could provoke a negative public reaction in the populated urban area that would interfere with the ability to fight the pest, said Clint Burfitt, manager of the department's insect pest prevention program.

"There's a short opportunity to mitigate the AGM threat before it spreads," he said.

### Costly spraying

The cost of spraying will likely involve several aircraft and the Oregon portion of the project is expected to cost \$2.5 million, Burfitt said.

Spraying will also occur in southwest Washington at a cost of \$3 million, he said.

This year the moths were found on the Washington and Oregon sides of the Columbia River.

In Oregon, eradication will likely begin in mid-April and involve three treatments one week apart, pending an environmental assessment and public outreach, Burfitt said.

Oregon has asked the federal government to fully pay for the spraying, but the Department of Agriculture will also request funding from the state Legislature early next year in case the federal funds don't cover the entire expense, said Coba.

### Third largest eradication

The eradication project is the third largest in Oregon's history, said Helmuth Rogg,

director of Oregon's plant program area.

Asian gypsy moths have previously been intercepted in Oregon in 1992, 2000 and 2006 along the Columbia River, likely due to Asian imports at the nearby Port of Vancouver, he said.

The Asian gypsy moth is more of a danger to agriculture and the environment than the European gypsy moth, whose females are incapable of flight, Burfitt said.

Asian gypsy moth females can fly and produce up to 1,000 eggs each, so the species can become established more rapidly, he said.

With about 600 host plants, the Asian gypsy moth also has more habitat available, he said.

### Defoliate wild-growing plants

The pest can greatly defoliate wild-growing plants, negatively affecting stream temperatures, Burfitt said.

For agricultural products, such as nursery stock, the pest's establishment would cause increased pesticide use and may impede shipments to other states and countries, he said.

In 2000, the Washington State Department of Agriculture sprayed for the insects on 725 acres in the Ballard and Magnolia neighborhoods of Seattle.

In 1992, Washington sprayed 116,457 acres for the Asian gypsy moths in Pierce and King counties.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

# Need a lift?



Rebecca Herren/EO Media Group

An elk looks with interest at a passing car in Gearhart earlier this month.

## Free New Year's Day hikes at state parks

The Daily Astorian

Free "First Day Hikes" will be held in 28 Oregon state parks on New Year's Day, including in Fort Stevens, Nehalem Bay and Cape Lookout.

Park rangers or volunteers will lead most of the hikes. The usual day-use parking fee will be waived on Jan. 1 only.

Participants should dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes and bring water as well as a camera or binoculars for wildlife viewing, according to park rangers. In case of inclement weather, participants should contact the park directly to find out about cancellation.

At Cape Lookout State Park, the free hike will be-

gin at noon at the Cape Lookout Trail parking lot. The hike is 5 miles on moderate terrain. Park rangers say the Cape Lookout Trail is one of the most scenic on the Oregon Coast with views of the shoreline to the north and south. Over the past four years, hikers have seen whales on the First Day Hike. Dogs must be on a 6-foot leash.

At Fort Stevens State Park, the free hike will begin at 10 a.m. at the North Coffenbury Lake parking lot. The hike is 3 miles on the Coffenbury Lake, Sunset and Burma Road trails.

The hike will be on areas of unimproved trails, through mature spruce, cedar and shore pine forests, and along an inter-dune freshwater

lake. Dogs must be on a 6-foot leash.

At Nehalem Bay State Park, the free hike will begin at 10 a.m. at the parking lot behind the registration booth. The hike is an easy 2-mile hike on the Nehalem Bay Loop Trail. Binoculars and a spotting scope will be available for bird watching.

For directions to each park, visit the Oregon State Parks website at [www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org).

This year, participants are asked to share photos of their First Day Hike via social media by using the hashtag #ORfirstdayhikes on Twitter and Instagram or tagging "Oregon State Parks" on Facebook. Images can also be e-mailed to [social.oprd@oregon.gov](mailto:social.oprd@oregon.gov).

## Survey finds monarch butterflies prevalent in central Oregon

Associated Press

BEND — As Oregon conservationists turn their attention to the monarch butterfly, field research has found that there are more of the colorful insects in the state than once thought.

The field research last summer by the U.S. Forest Service and volunteers found that central Oregon is dotted with butterflies, The Bend Bulletin reported. Researchers found 125 adult monarchs and more than 300 caterpillars. Before the data was collected, there were only four or five known spots for monarchs. The survey found about 30 sites.

"We basically put central Oregon on the map for monarch butterfly conservation," said Matt Horning, a geneticist with the U.S. Forest Service in Bend.

The new findings could help efforts to revive the species, which is being considered by the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Monarchs are known for their massive migrations, with the trip south for winter taking multiple generations. Some butterflies have been known to fly as far as from Mexico to the Midwest. The butterflies eventually make their way to coastal California before a new generation returns north. Monarchs are found in Oregon from May to October.

Horning said he plans to further study monarchs in central Oregon, potentially marking some to learn more about where they migrate. Katya Spiecker, founder of the Monarch Advocates of Central Oregon, said monarchs are important because they are a good poster child for pollinators, such as bumblebees and wasps, and the problems they face.

"A lot of pollinators, their populations are dropping," Spiecker said.

# Police on the lookout for driver who hit boy

The Daily Astorian

Warrenton Police are searching for a pickup truck driver who struck a 12-year-old boy Monday morning at South Main Avenue and Southwest 9th Street.

The boy was crossing South Main Avenue in the marked crosswalk when he was struck by the north-bound pickup truck, according to witnesses. The truck then stopped and the male driver and witnesses went to aid the boy, who limped to the west side of the road with an injured leg.

The driver, a white man in his 50s with a round face and short gray hair wearing glasses, told witnesses he was going to move his vehicle out of the roadway. It was very dark and pouring rain at the time of the crash and he did not want to leave his vehicle on the roadway, he said.

The driver then left the scene.

Warrenton Police Chief Matt Workman, a Clatsop County Sheriff's deputy and witnesses could not find the pickup, described as an older model, full-sized, dark gray or dark colored with little or no damage on the driver's side front corner.

The boy was transported by Medix to Columbia Memorial Hospital where he was treated and released to his parents having no broken bones or serious injuries.

Those who were in the area at the time of the crash or have additional information are encouraged to call Warrenton Police at 503-861-5622 or email Chief Workman at [mworkman@ci.warrenton.or.us](mailto:mworkman@ci.warrenton.or.us).

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