

Early figures show gypsy damage down

NEW YORK — This season's gypsy moth damage in the Northeast was only half of last year's, and forests in Pennsylvania — plagued for the past eight years with serious defoliation — were largely spared, according to preliminary figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Figures released today by the department's Animal

and Plant Health Inspection Service show approximately 643,000 acres were defoliated in the Northeast — the principal infested region — down from 1,271,990 acres in 1978. The pests stripped approximately 8,500 acres in Pennsylvania this year, down from nearly 450,000 acres in 1978 and 1.3 million acres in 1977 in the state.

"A combination of factors caused the dramatic drop in

damage in Pennsylvania," said James O. Lee, deputy administrator of APHIS. "Among the causes were the wet, cold weather this spring, diseases of the caterpillars, parasites released through state and federal programs, and treatment of areas expecting heaviest damage."

The figures, compiled each year from aerial surveys, also show that 100

acres in Michigan were defoliated — the first noticeable damage ever recorded outside the Northeast. Damage also reported damage for the first time.

"Even though Pennsylvania's damage was down, the insect's populations are on the rise in some other areas — parts of Massachusetts, for example," Lee said, "and this

points up the need for continued state and federal cooperation in developing a comprehensive integrated pest management approach to deal with this pest. Many new tools, including the gypsy moth virus, a bacterial insecticide, the sex lure, large capacity moth traps and highly specific pesticides can be used in such a program.

Preliminary 1979 defoliation figures are:

Maine — 23,180 acres, up from 4,120 in 1978; New Hampshire — 5,980, up from 725; Vermont — 15,411, down from 43,000; Massachusetts — 226,260, up from 63,042; Rhode Island — 544, up from 0; Connecticut — 7,486, up from 3,835; New York —

162,275 down from 500,046; Pennsylvania — 8,552, down from 452,892; New Jersey — 193,700, down from 204,330; Delaware — 10, up from 0; and Michigan — 100, up from 0.

Final figures will be ready later in the fall.

The gypsy moth is the most destructive hardwood forest defoliator in the Northeast. A single stripping may kill an evergreen tree and three in a row can kill hardwoods. The caterpillars, the only destructive stage, become a nuisance around homes, and heavy infestations spoil the appeal of forested recreational areas. The pests are noted for their cyclic population explosions and subsequent collapses

Deer hunt slated for handicapped

DOVER, Del. — Persons permanently bound to wheelchairs are invited to qualify for and participate in the Forth Annual Handicapped Deer Hunt to be held at the Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge near Leipsic, Delaware.

The qualification will be held at the Dover Air Force Base, Dover, Delaware Firing Range on October 20, 1979 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The actual hunt will be on November 12 and November 16, 1979, with the times to be announced depending on need and participation.

Prospective hunters will be qualifying on the base range by firing their shotgun; using a shotgun slug, aimed at a 12 inch target at a distance of 30 yards. The individual must hit the target on three consecutive shots out of five attempts.

All participants must provide their own shotgun, ammunition for both qualifying and during the hunt, and an aide familiar with deer hunting to assist with tracking a wounded animal and field dressing.

Overall, the requirements for this deer hunt are basically the same as those for anyone else, whether handicapped or not.

The only concession made is for those people involved will get a ride into the woods to a predesigned spot. Safety cannot be stressed too much. Everyone is positioned so as not to get caught in a cross fire and the area to be used is specially set aside and off-limits to all others.

The event is a coordinated

effort among the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Division, Delaware State Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

For more information about the hunt and to register to participate, persons should call Tom Parker at 302-678-9578 as soon as possible so that the maximum number of persons can take advantage of this opportunity and to allow for effective planning.



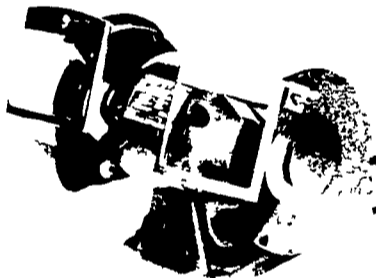
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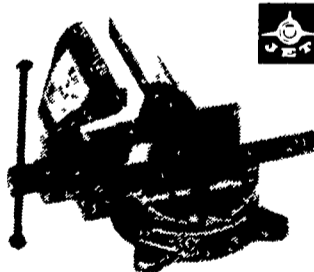
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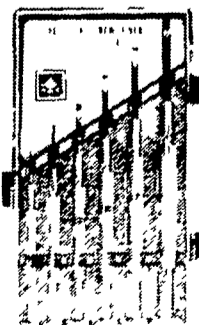
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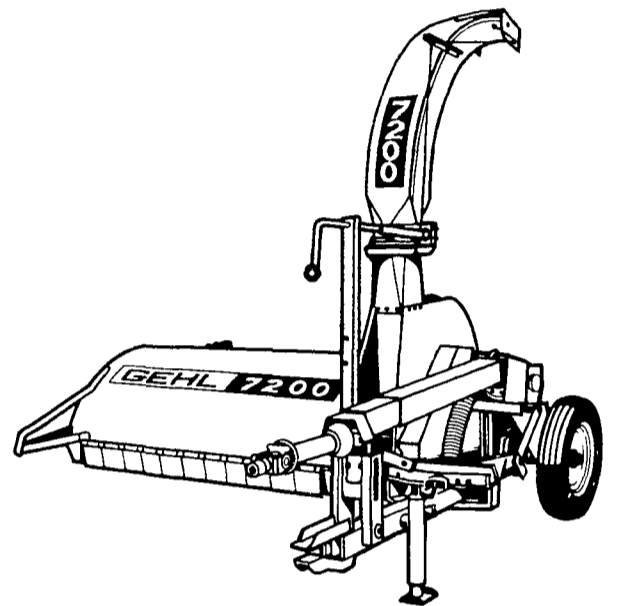
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