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New rule to reduce

spread of Gypsy moth

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture will begin regulating the movement of outdoor household articles Oct. 3 to help prevent the interstate spread of the gypsy moth.

"All items used or stored outdoors must be free of gypsy moths -- eggs, caterpillars, cocoons and adults - before they can be moved from a gypsy moth high-risk area into or through a non-regulated area," said Bert Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The high-risk area is generally the infested northeastern states.

"People who have lived with this pest know what a nuisance it can be." Hawkins said. "We're counting on their cooperation to keep the gypsy moth from spreading to new neighborhoods

"After Oct. 3 when the new regulation goes into effect, people moving from the high risk area will have to inspect their outdoor household articles before they move, or hire a USDA-trained commercial expert to do it for them," said Hawkins.

State and federal agricultural officials will be checking interstate moves in transit or at destination to make sure they are gypsy mothfree. Every move should be accompanied by either an outdoor household article document issued



by a USDA-qualified expert or a written statement that the owner inspected the articles, Hawkins said.

Most new isolated infestations are started from gypsy moth egg masses on household articles used or stored outdoors during the gypsy moth's egg-laying stage. Each tan-colored, fuzzy egg mass can contain as many as 1,000 eggs capable of over-wintering to hatch and start a new infestation of the leaf-eating gypsy moth.

Under the new regulation, people may be fined if they move any life form of the gypsy moth - adult, caterpillar, cocoon or egg mass out of designated high-risk areas, unless their articles are ac-companied by an outdoor household document obtained before the move

Names of qualified, certified applicators are available from state departments of agriculture. county extension agents or USDA plant protection and quarantine offices

Inspection guidelines for those who elect to inspect their own articles are available by writing Don't Move Gypsy Moth, USDA-APHIS, Rm. G-187, 6505 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Copies may also be available at local public libraries, state departments of agriculture, county extension agents or USDA plant protection and quarantine offices.

Regulated items include anything associated with the household kept outside the home General categories include. recreation or camping items, building materials, yard and garden items and children's toys.

High-risk states are Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island. Parts of these states are also high risk Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont

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