

Prepare For Next Year's Gypsy Moth

TOWANDA (Bradford Co.) — The gypsy moth feeding season has just about come to an end this year.

You may have experienced serious defoliation in your woodlot, especially if you have a high percentage of oak. Hopefully, the population of the gypsy moth was so large that they were stressed.

When the gypsy moth population is stressed, they are susceptible to fungal and viral diseases. You should check your woods and see if you can see dead gypsy moths hanging upside down from the branches. That is a good sign that these diseases have been at work. If you are lucky and the conditions were right, you will see lots of these dead caterpillars.

The extension office has received numerous calls from concerned woodlot owners about how and who can spray their woodlands for gypsy moth. These calls began in May and continued throughout the gypsy moth season. As most of those individuals discovered, this was too late to start thinking about spraying. In order to determine if your woodlot should be sprayed and to arrange for someone to spray, you should start this fall.

Since some species of trees are more preferred as food than others, the first thing you need to do is to learn how to identify the trees you have on your woodlot. Trees such as oak, aspen, birch, and basswood are favorite foods of the gypsy moth, while trees like ash, yellow-poplar, locust, and sycamore are not preferred foods.

Once you can identify trees, you should take a walk in your woods and try to determine what percentage of your trees are of the pre-

ferred food species, especially oaks. If you have more than 40 percent oak trees in your woods, your woodlot may be susceptible to defoliation.

If you have more than 40 percent oak, the next thing to consider is how much longer it will be until your trees are ready to be harvested. If you have more than 10 years until harvest, it may not be economical to spray your woods. The best way to determine if your trees are approaching harvest age is to have an up-to-date management plan for your woodlot that includes pest management

considerations. If your woods will be ready to harvest within 10 years, you need to consider their condition. If, for example, they were heavily defoliated last year, spraying may turn out to be a viable option.

After these considerations, you need to walk your woods and count the number of egg masses on the trees. If you encounter 200 or more healthy egg masses per acre (not 200 in your entire woods), you have the potential for a gypsy moth problem next year.

You have now reached the point

where you should decide to spray or not. This decision should be made by Christmas time. Remember, spraying is expensive, ranging from \$16 to sometimes \$50 per acre. A lot depends on how many acres you have to spray and what kind of aircraft does the spraying. You may want to meet with your neighbors and discuss having their properties sprayed also.

The more acres there are to spray, the less the cost per acre. If you decide to spray, you should then contact an individual or company that will spray your woods.

The extension office has a list of contractors that have sprayed in Pennsylvania in the past and may be willing to spray.

Whatever you decide to do, you should make sure you make the decision carefully and not panic when you see gypsy moths in the woods. It generally takes two or more consecutive years of defoliation to kill healthy trees. Also, remember that you will not eliminate gypsy moth. The insect is going to be with us forever and we are going to have to learn to live with it.

Research Supports Automatic Roller-Mixers

PENDER, Neb.— Automatic Equipment Manufacturing Company's new RollMix roller mixer units have been developed to perform in accordance with university research findings on the relation of grain particle size to livestock feeding efficiency.

The published research found that grain particles of proper size and uniformity are related to optimum digestion by livestock or poultry. Automatic's RollMix models provide this product uniformity without the production of ultrafine "flour" particles which can decrease palatability and cause digestive problems in hogs and cattle. This is done by using Automatic's "one-fast-roll" principle -- the rolls cut grain instead of crushing.

According to a booklet on the "First International Symposium on Particle Size Reduction in the Feed Industry" sponsored by Kansas State University, an added

benefit with roller-mixers is a more uniform product with less dust or flour being lost to the wind or to dust collection systems, thus making the most of the material supplied to the mill.

In addition, symposium

research found that roller mills such as Automatic's 9115 and 9110 are able to process grain in feed manufacturing more efficiently than hammer mills. This is especially true for particle sizes of 700 microns or larger. At particle

sizes of 1800 microns, roller mills are more than five times more energy effective.

Automatic's RollMix 9115 has a 150-bushel mixing tank and takes only 10 minutes to produce 150 bushels of feed. The RollMix 9110 has a 100-bushel mixing tank. Both are portable units, designed to service a wide range of livestock feeding operations.

Tractors as small as 80 HP can be used to operate the RollMix 9115, while the RollMix 9110 requires a minimum of 50 HP.

For more information, contact the Feed Processing Equipment Division, Automatic Equipment Mfg. Co., One Mill Road, Industrial Park, Pender, NB 68047, (402) 385-3051.



1 FARM EQUIPMENT

JD 407 pull type rotary mower, JD 30 combine, NH 274 baler; NH 9' haybine; JD side delivery rake, Bush Hog 3 pt mower, International Super C, H, F20, JD spring tooth harrow; (2) JD 5 bottom plows; (2) cut-a-way discs 5', 7', (2) JD sickle mowers, side mount 5pt pull-type chisel plow. (301)838-1282 after 6PM.

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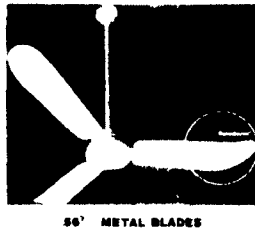
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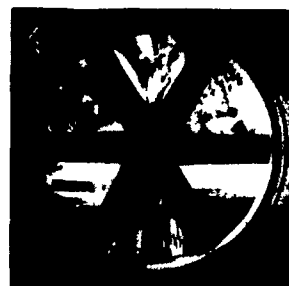
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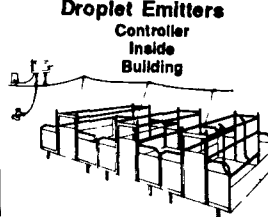
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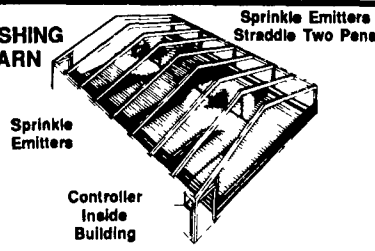
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