

# **History of Asian Gypsy Moth in Washington State**

## **1991**

In 1991, 11,439 traps caught nine Asian gypsy moths at eight locations in Pierce and King counties near the Port of Tacoma. In response to the nine catches, a large-scale (116,500 acres in Pierce and South King counties) aerial application of Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*) was conducted in the spring of 1992.

## **1992**

Due to the Asian gypsy moth catches in 1991, an aggressive trapping program was conducted and 129,299 traps found 458 gypsy moths in 38 catch areas. Most of western Washington was surveyed at 16 traps/mile<sup>2</sup>. One European gypsy moth was found within the 1992 spray zone. All gypsy moths were tested by the USDA OTIS Methods Development Center (OTIS) using mitochondrial DNA analysis to determine strain type (Asian or European). No moths tested as Asian.

## **1993**

A total of 29,059 traps caught 201 gypsy moths in 54 catch areas. Twenty of those catch areas were within 10 miles of the Port of Tacoma. All gypsy moths caught during the 1993 survey were sent to OTIS for analysis. One moth, from the Solo Point catch area near Fort Lewis, was identified as a Central Siberian Hybrid (A1) gypsy moth.

## **1994**

A total of 15,908 traps caught 173 gypsy moths in 35 catch areas. All moths were again sent to OTIS for genetic testing. Six moths from five catch areas in Pierce County and one moth from Snohomish County were typed as Central Siberian Hybrids. These moths were genetically similar to Asian gypsy moth hybrids found in Germany and were suspected as having been introduced during U.S. troop demobilization to Fort Lewis.

A Science Panel of gypsy moth experts recommended treatment for one of the six Pierce County Asian gypsy moths (Puyallup) based on genetic markers of special concern. The Puyallup site was treated in the spring of 1995 and eradication was declared after two years of negative trapping.

## **1995**

A total of 36,166 traps caught three moths that were identified by OTIS as being Far Eastern Asian (A2) and two that were identified as Central Siberian Hybrids (A1). Two of the A2's were found in delimiting grids in the Seattle area of King County (North Beacon Hill and Madrona Park). The third A2 was found in a delimiting grid in the Olympia area of Thurston County (Black Lake). Both of the A1's were found in delimiting grids in the Tacoma area of Pierce County (Tacoma Dome and Fife).

The Science Panel recommended treating the three A2 AGM sites (North Beacon Hill, Madrona Park and Black Lake). The sites were treated in the spring of 1996 and eradication was declared after two years of negative trapping.

## **1996**

A total of 31,668 traps caught one moth within the Seattle Port survey that was identified by OTIS as being Far Eastern Asian (A2). The Seattle Port (West Seattle) was treated in the spring of 1997 and eradication was declared after two years of negative trapping.

**1997**

A total of 25,185 traps caught one moth that was identified by OTIS as being a Central Siberian Hybrid (A1) in the Port of Seattle delimiting zone. A second moth caught at the Port of Tacoma was typed out as being a Far Eastern Asian (A2). The Port of Seattle and Port of Tacoma sites were treated in the spring of 1998 and eradication was declared after two years of negative trapping.

**1998**

A total of 20,230 traps detected no Asian gypsy moths in 1998.

**1999**

A total of 21,498 traps detected one Asian gypsy moth that was identified by OTIS as being Far Eastern Asian (A2). This moth was caught in Ballard near a site where an Asian gypsy moth egg mass (A2) was located on a vessel in the spring of 1999. The Ballard/Magnolia site was treated in the spring of 2000 and no Asian gypsy moths were caught in the summer survey.

**2000-2014**

Washington State has not detected any Asian gypsy moth from 2000-2014.