

Gypsp Moth Identification Larvae (Caterpillars)



1st Instar Stage:

- A. Head and body black in color.
- B. Length, 1/8 to 3/16 inches (3 to 5 mm).

2nd Instar Stage:

- A. Nearly black in color with irregularly shaped yellow marks on the upper body surface.
- B. Head capsule is black.
- C. Length, 3/16 to 5/16 inches (5 to 11 mm).



3rd Instar Stage:

- A. Coloration more pronounced, the orange, crown shaped markings on the upper body surface are distinctive.
- B. Note: Within each instar, as the larvae feed, they grow in length and width, except the head capsule will appear the same size as the body at the beginning of an instar, but appears smaller as the larvae nears the end of that stage.
- C. Length, 3/8 to 5/8 inches (10 to 16 mm).

4th Instar Stage:

- A. Dramatic changes in larval appearance..
- B. Head Capsule is yellow mottled with black markings.
- C. Markings on the body surface are distinctively 5 pairs of blue spots followed by 6 pairs of red spots.
- D. Length, 5/8 to 1 inch (15 to 24 mm)



5th & 6th Instar Stage:

- A. Distinct appearance with 5 pairs of blue dots and 6 pairs of red dots.
- B. Beige head with dark markings.
- C. Length up to 2 1/2 inches (63 mm).

