

## Burlap Bands for Gypsy Moth Caterpillars

Burlap bands can be used to check for and capture gypsy moth caterpillars. As gypsy moth caterpillars become larger and more noticeable on foliage, they begin a daily trek from the canopy of the tree down to daytime hiding places such as leaf litter and bark crevices. Toward evening, the caterpillars come out of hiding and migrate up the trees to feed. Using burlap and some twine, an artificial hiding place can be created on the tree trunk. The bands are placed about chest high, tied around the middle, and the upper portion folded down. Best results are when the burlap is slightly ruffled and loose. Caterpillars congregate between the folds and also between the burlap and the tree trunk. Bands can be checked every 1 to 2 days and any caterpillars either crushed or swept into soapy water buckets. Bands can be put up after caterpillars hatch and can be removed as caterpillars begin to pupate in July. Photographs below show an oak tree with a burlap band, and caterpillars underneath the burlap in bark crevices.

