



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Idaho State Department of Agriculture sets traps for Invasive Insect

Non Native Gypsy Moth Could Become Serious New Pest in the Treasure Valley

BOISE – The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) will start an intensive survey for the gypsy moth, a non native, invasive insect that defoliates trees. Last summer two male moths were trapped by ISDA during annual detection surveys for the pest in Meridian, Idaho. This year, the agency will set out nearly 400 traps in a grid pattern around the two positive trap locations to see if the insect has become established in the vicinity of the positive traps. The non-toxic traps, placed in trees by agency surveyors, use an insect perfume or pheromone to attract just male gypsy moths.

ISDA is seeking the cooperation of the public by not disturbing the traps placed in area trees. The traps are made of green cardboard, tent shaped, and about seven inches in length. The agency also asks Treasure Valley residents to serve as "citizen surveyors" by reporting unusual chewing damage to tree foliage caused by the colorful and hairy caterpillar stage of this invasive species to the ISDA at 208-332-8627.

Gypsy moth, a well established pest in the Northeastern United States, can hitchhike on cars, recreational vehicles, outdoor furniture, and fire wood brought into Idaho from infested states. Many common landscape trees in the Treasure Valley including oaks, maples, poplars and others are vulnerable to attack by the gypsy moth caterpillars. Southwest Idaho's growing nursery industry could also be subject to quarantines placed on Idaho by other states if this pest were to become established.

For more information visit ISDA website <http://www.agri.idaho.gov> or contact Ben Simko at 208-332-8627.

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