

MASSACHUSETTS
Insect and Disease Conditions
1994

Gypsy Moth populations continue to decline. Defoliation in 1994 totaled 79,695 acres down from 88,684. This trend is expected to continue with the heaviest defoliation continuing in the south shore area. The cape is starting to show signs of a build population. Pressure from some communities on the south shore is being applied for a suppression program but at this time no control programs are planned.

Oak Leaf Tier populations remain low. No defoliation was noted and no catches were recorded in the pheromone traps.

Oak Leaf Skeletonizer populations are increasing in Worcester and western Middlesex Counties.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid continues to spread. Two new infestations have been identified (Northampton and Seekonk). The new infestation in Northampton is a new county bringing the total counties where infestations are located to 6. We had 3 unconfirmed reports of this pest (1 in Berkshire County, and 2 in Middlesex County).

Hemlock Looper (*Lambdina fiscellaria*) defoliated 1,633 acres in southern Berkshire County. This is the first time that damage from the fall flying hemlock looper has been recorded in Massachusetts. An egg survey recently completed indicates that we can expect moderate to severe defoliation next season. Most of the defoliation involves state park land and at the present time a control program is being planned with state funds.

Larch Sawfly populations continue to remain stable with 25 acres of defoliation mapped.

Pear Thrips no defoliation was noted.

Browntail Moth 168 acres of defoliation were noted on the outer cape.

Pitch Pine Looper 2,554 acres of defoliation were recorded in Plymouth and Barnstable Counties.

Nantucket Pine Tip Moth caused damage to 8,019 acres in Barnstable County.

Tar Spot has increased in Northern Berkshire and Western Franklin Counties. This has caused premature leaf drop.