

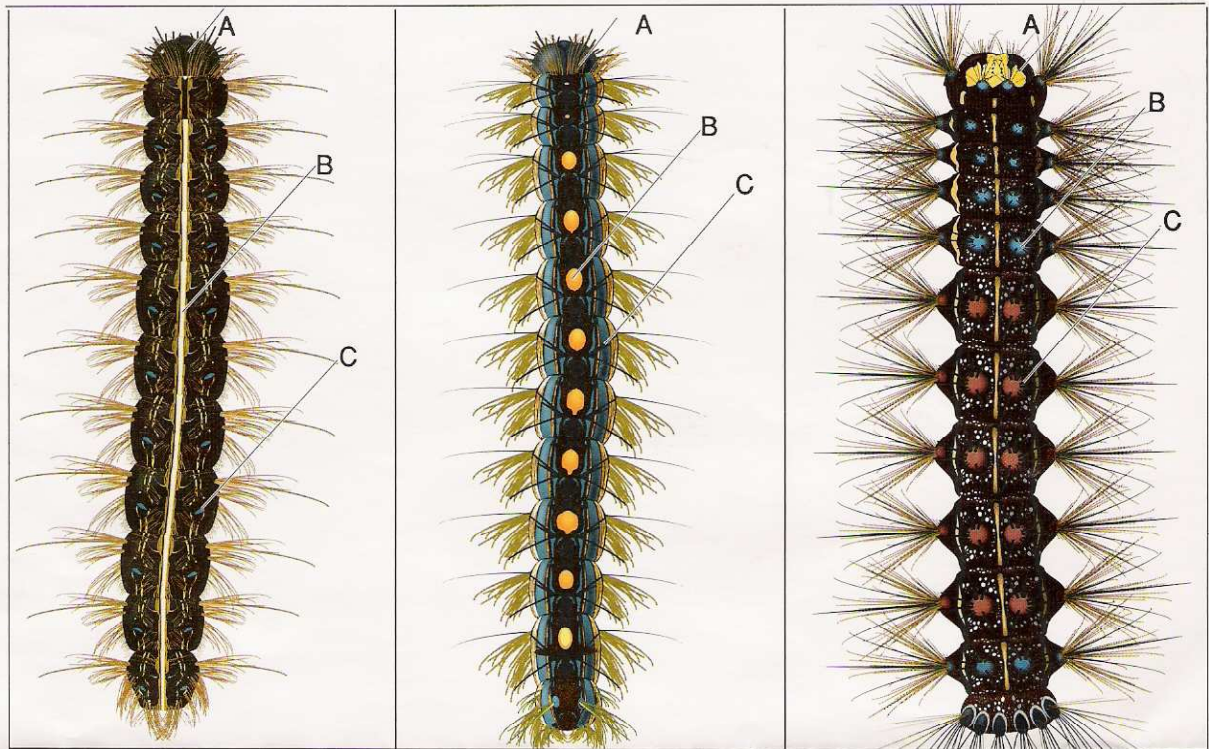
**Homeowner Gypsy Moth Strategies**

# A Comparison of the Gypsy Moth, Eastern Tent, and Forest Tent Caterpillars

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The identity of three potentially common caterpillars that are present early each year may be confusing. The following information and illustrations help identify which of these caterpillars is feeding on your trees. All three of these caterpillars




can become pests from time to time and defoliate yard trees. Contact your local county Cooperative Extension office for control information (see County Government in the phone directory).



**Eastern Tent Caterpillar**  
*Malacosoma americanum*

**Forest Tent Caterpillar**  
*Malacosoma disstria*

**Gypsy Moth Caterpillar**  
*Lymantria dispar*

	Eastern Tent Caterpillar <i>Malacosoma americanum</i>	Forest Tent Caterpillar <i>Malacosoma disstria</i>	Gypsy Moth Caterpillar <i>Lymantria dispar</i>
<b>Markings</b>	A) Black head; B) prominent central dorsal stripe; C) small blue spots to the side.	A) Blue head; B) prominent central row of yellow keyhole shapes; C) bluish sides.	A) Beige head with dark marks; B) prominent blue and red dots. C) red dots.
<b>Tents</b>	Prominent silk tent in a branch crotch.	Resting site often covered with silk, but no tent.	No silk tents.
<b>Egg Masses</b>	Dark brown spindle-shaped mass on twigs with rough varnish texture. 	Similar to eastern tent but with flatter, less tapered ends. 	A beige or yellow, fuzzy mass, usually on the bark of the trunk. 
<b>Preferred food trees</b>	Wild cherry, apple, crab apple.	Poplar, sugar maple, birch, oaks, ash, black gum.	All oaks, birch, aspen, poplar, willow.