

## How to make a trap for male gypsy moths\* using a plastic bottle

To interrupt the breeding of Gypsy Moths, you can build a trap for male moths, using an elastic band soaked in female moth hormones as a “lure”. You will need to find a supplier (beyond the scope of this article)

### You need to bring the following with you to collect your “moth lure”:

- A plastic bag that will close (Ziploc or equivalent) or a plastic bag with a twist-tie to keep it firmly closed so the elastic doesn't fall out.

### At home, you will need:

1. disposable gloves.
2. tweezers to pick up the elastic band – in combination with the gloves.
3. a clear plastic juice bottle 1.5 to 2 litre size
4. box cutter/razor knife.
5. string.
6. masking tape or mini binder clip to hold the elastic to the string.
7. 1 elastic band lure (it is good for the entire season).
8. drill (1/16” bit - slightly larger diameter than the string).
9. ½ inch to 1 inch water in the bottom of the container.

a few drops of detergent to go in the water (this reduces the surface tension of the water so the moths become trapped easier).

NEVER TOUCH THE ELASTIC BAND LURE. The elastic band contains the pheromone, which can quickly transfer to and penetrate skin and for a long time you will attract male gypsy moths

NEVER LET THE ELASTIC LURE CONTACT THE WATER – it could lose its power to attract male gypsy moths

### Method:

- Cut two or four slots 1 high and two inches wide on the sides of the plastic bottle
- Tie the lure to a string, or tie the string to a large paper clip or a binder clip (see below) to keep the lure from falling into the water below and pull the string through the hole and fasten it or tie a knot it to keep the lure in place . the lure must be above the level of the water but below the slots.
- Pour in water (1-2 inches) so it rises about half-way up the slot and then add a squirt or two of liquid dishwashing detergent.
- Hang on a tree branch at eye level.

\*This common name is about to be changed to a less culturally offensive word



### How it works

The slotted openings which allow a pheromone scent trail to escape are close to the water surface which draws the flying moths down until their wings touch the water. Normally the moths would bounce off the water surface but because of the detergent in the water, the wings break the surface and the moth will drown.