



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM

Division of Plant Industry, Plant Pest Control Section  
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## DIMILIN 4L – Fact Sheet

### What is DIMILIN and how does it work??

DIMILIN is a chemical insecticide (growth regulator) that works by preventing the formation of chitin, an important structural component of the outer skin of the gypsy moth larvae. Gypsy moth caterpillars periodically shed their skin (molt) as they grow, forming new larger skins. After a gypsy moth caterpillar ingests DIMILIN, the new outer skin fails to develop properly and death of the insect occurs within a few days. DIMILIN must be ingested for it to be effective. Simply coming into contact with DIMILIN will not cause the gypsy moth caterpillar to die.

### Does DIMILIN effect Humans, Mammals, or Birds?

No, due to its mode of action and the disruption of the normal molting process of insect larvae, it does not effect humans, mammals, or birds. DIMILIN is highly specific to insects that go through a molting process and does not effect other beneficial insects when applied a label rates. DIMILIN is therefore an excellent product for use in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.

### Does DIMILIN effect honey bees?

No, DIMILIN is specific to Lepidoptera larvae.

### Beneficial Effects

DIMILIN is somewhat quick acting in that its effects will be felt during the next molting cycle. By maintaining a trees health and preventing tree mortality: 1) water quality and temperature is maintained, thus protecting all organisms dependent on water, 2) prevents increased predatory activity of nesting birds, 3) Protects other leaf eating and canopy dependent insects, 4) preserves acorn production and food supplies for all the birds, rodents and mammals dependent on them, 5) reduces the risk of forest fires, 6) allows the natural cycles of the forest ecosystem to continue the thrive and sustain diverse, interdependent populations of plants and animals.

### Adverse Effects

DIMILIN will reduce the number of moths and butterflies in the treatment area that are specifically in the caterpillar life stage during the effective period of the insecticide (30 – 40 days after application). Because the treatment areas are isolated spots, re-population of non-target species is expected to occur within 1 to 3 years.

DIMILIN may also affect aquatic invertebrates (crawfish) that go through a molting process, and therefore cannot be applied directly to open bodies of water.

As with the application of any control product, people, pets or domestic animals with known health concerns may wish To avoid exposure during the spray operation and until the DIMILIN product is dry (usually within a few hours).