

SPONGY MOTH

Formerly the Gypsy Moth



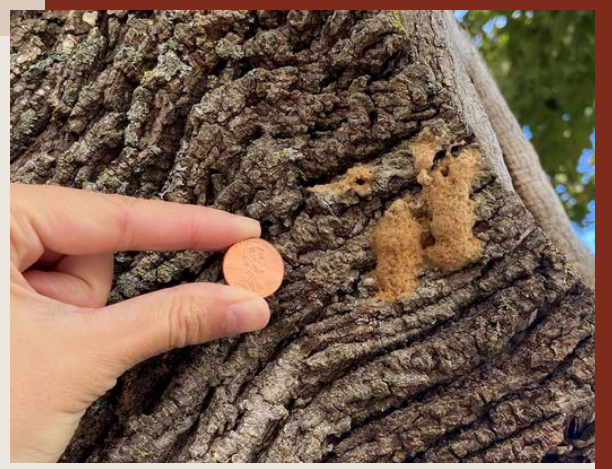
Damage Report

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Spongy Moth is the most serious forest defoliator in the US. In 2021, it defoliated 9 million acres of forest in the US. Having all of its leaves eaten could kill even a healthy tree. Spongy Moth has been in LaPorte County since 1981.

AUGUST - APRIL

Egg masses can be found virtually anywhere including on picnic tables, wood piles, trees, lawn mowers, etc August - April. To eradicate eggs, spray with Neem Oil or scrape them into a container of soapy water and leave for 2 days before discarding. Do NOT scrape onto the ground. This will not kill them.



Egg Masses

APRIL - JUNE

Caterpillars can be found April - June. They are hungry and looking to climb up trees to get to the leaves. If you use pesticides, make sure the bottle specifies Spongy Moth or Gypsy Moth. You can also use barriers around the trunks of your trees.



Caterpillar



JUNE - JULY

In June - July, you may notice the Spongy Moth pupae. During metamorphosis, they create a dark brown shell-like casing and will remain in that stage for about 2 weeks. You can crush or brush the pupa into a container with soapy water.



Pupa



Adult

JULY - AUGUST

In July - August you may notice the larger white females or smaller brown males emerging from their casings. Females cannot fly even though they have wings. You can crush or brush a spongy moth into a container with soapy water. Females can lay 500-1,000 eggs.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? SEE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/GM-1/GM-1.html>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=wisconsin%20dnr%20spongy%20moth&mid=8007E188B37B38B592048007E188B37B38B59204&ajaxhist=0>

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/foresthealth/spongymoth>

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/spongymothinwisconsin/pest-management-2/management-guide-for-homeowners/>