

SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Before leaving a spongy moth quarantined area, it is required by law to inspect all items used or stored outside for spongy moth life stages. Use this checklist and keep it with inspected items when moving them out of quarantined counties.

Campers

- Backpacks
- Barbecue grills, propane tanks
- Bicycles, bike carts, wagons
- Boats, trailers, canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, life jackets
- Coolers (ice chests), lawn chairs
- Fishing tackle boxes, waders, or boots
- Kids toys (like trucks or sand molds)
- Pet carriers
- Sports equipment
- Table cloths, tarps
- RVs, campers, tents
- Vehicles, motorcycles
- Wash tubs/buckets, water hoses
- Any items stored outdoors

Seasonal Visitors

- Awnings, fencing
- Birdbaths, bird feeders, bug lights
- Lawn decorations, lawn mowers, garden tillers
- Picnic tables, patio furniture, decking
- Screen tents, shade shelters
- Swing sets, swimming pools, sand boxes
- Trash cans
- Trees, shrubs, plants, plant containers
- ATVs, OHVs, RVs, golf carts, vehicles, snow mobiles
- Wheelbarrows, carts, trailers
- Any item stored outdoors

Origination Property Address _____

By signing my name below, I affirm that I have inspected all outdoor household articles, whether included on this checklist or not, for all life stages of spongy moth in accordance with the procedures on this brochure, as required by The State of Minnesota Spongy Moth Quarantine.

Signature _____

Printed name _____

Date _____ Phone _____



Spongy moth caterpillars can eat all the leaves in the canopy of a forest.

You can help ...

Do not bring spongy moths to your backyard!



Report suspect spongy moth life stages to:

mda.state.mn.us/reportapest
888-545-6684

Guide to Visiting a SPONGY MOTH QUARANTINED AREA

Complete the self-inspection checklist inside



Spongy moths are one of the most destructive pests to ever be introduced into the United States. Now they are here in Minnesota's Cook and Lake counties!

Spongy moth caterpillars love to eat. Their menu includes over 300 different species of trees and shrubs. The caterpillars will defoliate and weaken trees in our forests and cities. Repeated defoliation can kill trees already stressed by drought, diseases, or other pests.

The spongy moth's range now extends westward into Minnesota and much of Wisconsin. Cook and Lake counties in Minnesota's Arrowhead Region have been quarantined for spongy moth since 2014.



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



Help stop this insect from spreading. It is required by law.

The spongy moth lays its eggs in hidden places, which makes human assisted movement easy. If you move firewood or other household items stored outdoors, you could unknowingly help the spongy moth spread great distances and into new areas.

Follow these simple guidelines after visiting a spongy moth quarantined area to prevent spongy moth from hitching a ride:

- Do not move firewood – **buy it where you will burn it!** Firewood can move many insects and diseases, like spongy moths. Moving it puts our native and urban forests at risk.
- Thoroughly inspect all items that have been outdoors. Take special care to inspect all surfaces, cracks, and crevices.

- Remove and destroy all spongy moth egg masses before leaving infested areas. Egg masses can be scraped off with a credit card or stiff brush. Place spongy moth life stages into a sealed container and dispose of them in the garbage.



Egg masses found on picnic table.

- Report suspect spongy moths to:
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What to look for

The spongy moth has one generation per year. In the late summer, female moths lay egg masses on any hard surface, often in concealed locations. Human assisted movement of egg masses can help spongy moth move large distances and spread into previously uninfested areas.

Spongy moth life stages

Egg mass

Females lay one fuzzy, tan-colored egg mass on any available outdoor surface in August-October.

- Can be irregularly shaped
- About the size of a quarter
- Contains 500-1000 eggs
- Remains in this stage throughout winter and hatches the following spring

Caterpillar (larva)

- Has five pairs of blue spots and six pairs of rusty red spots
- Can grow up to 2½ inches in length
- Feeds for 5-6 weeks during June-August
- Hides in sheltered locations during the day

Pupa (cocoon)

- Dark, reddish-brown immobile stage
- Can be found July-September
- Attaches themselves to a vertical surface with strands of silk

Adult (moth)

Emerge August-October and live about two weeks

Male

- Brownish-grey appearance similar to many other local moths
- Flies during the day
- Not attracted to light

Female

- Cream with brown, jagged markings on wings
- Cannot fly
- Attract males through pheromones
- Produces one egg mass and dies



A mated female lays one egg mass just days after emerging from her pupal case



Egg mass with newly hatched caterpillars



Late stage caterpillar



Pupa (cocoon)



Female moth laying an egg mass