

# spongy moth

WISCONSIN COOPERATIVE  
SPONGY MOTH PROGRAM



slow the  
spread  
program

## slow the spread program

Wisconsin is one of several states participating in the USDA's national Slow the Spread of the Spongy Moth program. The program concentrates at the front of the spread zone, which are areas where the pest has not yet been established. In Wisconsin, this is mostly the western half of the state.

As part of the STS program, DATCP monitors the spread of spongy moth by conducting aerial spraying, trapping and egg mass surveys. Trapping is not used as a method of population control. Trapping and egg mass survey information is used to determine spraying areas.

Wisconsin started a state survey program for spongy moth in the 1970s. In 1999, Wisconsin became part of the STS program. Spray program information for the current year, including maps of the proposed spray sites, will be available online starting in March at [spongymoth.wi.gov](http://spongymoth.wi.gov).

## benefits of the program

- Reduces the spread of spongy moth to an average of three miles per year;
- Protects our extensive urban and wild land hardwood forests;
- Protects the environment through the use of specific treatment tactics;
- Unifies and promotes a well-coordinated, region-wide action plan;
- Yields a benefit-to-cost ratio of more than 4 to 1 by delaying the onset of impacts that occur as spongy moth invades new areas.

## treatment methods

A single or double aerial application of the microbial insecticide Foray, containing the bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*, (Btk), is used. Mating disruptant works to confuse male moths when searching for a female in the summer and prevents reproduction.

## timing of treatment

Treatment is weather dependent but generally starts by mid-to-late May in southern Wisconsin and later further north. Caterpillars are targeted when they are less than 1/2-inch long and when leaves on host trees are less than half size. Pheromone flake treatments start right before moths emerge in the summer.

**1-800-642-MOTH (6684) | [spongymoth.wi.gov](http://spongymoth.wi.gov)**

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