



FOR NURSERY GROWERS, NURSERY DEALERS, AND CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS

# DATCP NURSERY NEWSLETTER

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION - PLANT INDUSTRY BUREAU

2025

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🌐 <https://datcp.wi.gov>  
✉ [DATCPnursery@wi.gov](mailto:DATCPnursery@wi.gov)  
☎ (608) 516-7617

## Additional Resources

**National Plant Board**  
Plant Protection Laws &  
Regulations by State  
[www.nationalplantboard.org/laws](http://www.nationalplantboard.org/laws)

**Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Plan**  
[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/PollinatorProtection.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/PollinatorProtection.aspx)

**USDA Christmas Tree Pest Manual 3rd Edition**  
<https://nurl.fdlp.gov/GPO/gpo51848>

**DriftWatch**  
Online registry for specialty crop growers  
[www.driftwatch.org](http://www.driftwatch.org)

**DNR Invasive Species Rule - NR 40**  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/classification.html>

**Slow The Spread Program**  
Access *L. dispar* trap counts  
[www.slowthespread.org](http://www.slowthespread.org)

**UW Extension Horticulture**  
<http://hort.uwex.edu/>

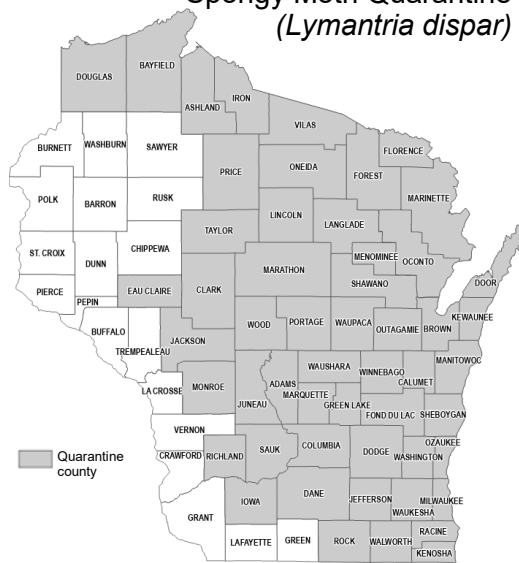
**First Detector Program**  
<http://firstdetector.org>

**Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC)**  
<http://sanc.nationalplantboard.org>

📧 **Subscribe to "What's Growing On?"**  
You can subscribe to the monthly nursery e-newsletter by going to the DATCP email subscriptions page. Under the "Division of Agricultural Resource Management", check the box for "Nursery Info & What's Growing On Newsletter". You will receive all communications that DATCP sends to nurseries, including the e-newsletter.

## Quarantines and Compliance for Shipping

### Spongy Moth Quarantine (*Lymantria dispar*)



**NOTE:** Quarantines are subject to change. View current quarantine maps on the [DATCP website](https://datcp.wi.gov).

To ship stock from a quarantined county into a non-quarantined county (either in Wisconsin or to another state), stock must be free of regulated pests and diseases. For out-of-quarantine movement, you may need a State or Federal Compliance Agreement (CA), Plant Health Certificate (PHC), or a Phytosanitary Certificate.

When shipping to another state or country, the destination typically requires documentation that the plant products have been inspected and certified as free of injurious insects and diseases. The certification may be issued through either DATCP or USDA-APHIS.

If inspectors detect spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) on or near your stock, you may receive a treatment letter. Please be sure to promptly return treatment records and follow guidelines to ensure that you are using an approved treatment method and timing treatment to effectively target larvae and reduce pest risk.

### PLANT HEALTH CERTIFICATE (PHC)

Reproducible form covers interstate shipments within the U.S. \$50 fee; valid for one year. Order online when renewing a nursery license or call (608) 224-4574.

### STATE PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

For interstate shipments within the U.S. and U.S. territories. \$50 fee covers one shipment; valid for 30 days. <https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/>

### FEDERAL PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

For shipments of plants and plant products out of the U.S. \$56 fee covers one shipment; valid for 14 days. <https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/>

### JAPANESE BEETLE COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

If you ship stock west of the Mississippi, you may need an annual Japanese Beetle Compliance Agreement. No fee. [Elizabeth.Meils@wi.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Meils@wi.gov), (608) 516-7617

### STATE COMPLIANCE AGREEMENTS

If shipping woody stock out of a spongy moth quarantine county within the state, importing hemlock from a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid-infested state, importing conifers from an Elongate Hemlock Scale-infested state, or importing logs from a state with Mountain Pine Beetle, you likely need a state compliance agreement. No fee. [MeganT.Sanders@wi.gov](mailto:MeganT.Sanders@wi.gov), (715) 891-8158

### FEDERAL USDA COMPLIANCE AGREEMENTS

If shipping out of a quarantine county and across state lines, you must contact USDA-APHIS staff to sign a compliance agreement for the applicable quarantines, including *Lymantria dispar* and Black Stem Rust (barberry), in effect. [Nick.L.Zebro@usda.gov](mailto:Nick.L.Zebro@usda.gov), [Dave.Hutton@usda.gov](mailto:Dave.Hutton@usda.gov), or [Ellen.M.Natzke@usda.gov](mailto:Ellen.M.Natzke@usda.gov)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website for a full description of each certificate type: [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/ShippingPlantMaterial.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ShippingPlantMaterial.aspx)

**Deregulation Reminder:** DATCP removed the state quarantines for Pine Shoot Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, and Thousand Cankers Disease on July 1, 2023. If you had done so in the past, you no longer need to sign annual compliance agreements for any of these pests. It is still important to scout for these invasive pests and avoid moving infested material.

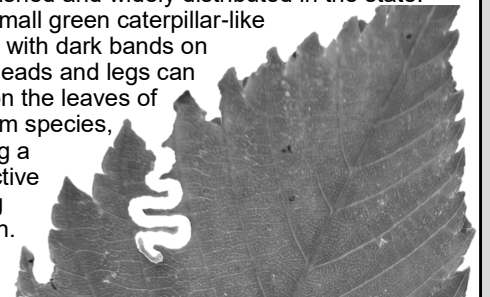
## A New Invasive Pest of Elm Zigzags Across Wisconsin

A new invasive insect was detected in central Wisconsin by DATCP's Forest Entomologist. The elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*) was observed on elm foliage in Portage County in July 2024. This unexpected discovery marked the first Wisconsin observation of the elm pest and a new state record. Official confirmation was made by USDA-APHIS on July 30, 2024.

Its capacity to produce multiple generations each season, in combination with hitchhiking on vehicles, plants, and other outdoor items, has allowed the elm zigzag sawfly (EZZ) to spread rapidly. Since the first North American report of EZZ in Canada in 2020, this native East Asian insect has been recorded in several eastern and Midwestern

states in the U.S. In Wisconsin, the July EZZ discovery quickly led to reports in 20 more counties. The growing list of positive counties suggests it is established and widely distributed in the state.

This small green caterpillar-like larvae with dark bands on their heads and legs can feed on the leaves of any elm species, leaving a distinctive zigzag pattern.



## Retailers Selling Seed May Need Seed Labeler License

Anyone selling seed for planting out of bulk bins or anyone selling seed for planting that they've repackaged: you likely need a Seed Labeler License from DATCP.

Per Wis. Stat. § 94.43-46, a seed labeler is any business or person whose name appears on a seed label or who opens containers of agricultural, lawn, or vegetable seed to sell all or part of.

You do not need a seed label license if you sell seed grown and sold exclusively on your own farm, or if you sell seed in unopened bags or containers labeled by a licensed seed labeler.

Seed licenses are annual, expiring December 31 of each year. The cost is based on gross annual sales, and ranges from \$25 for sales less than \$10,000 up to \$2,500 for sales of \$100 million or more. Apply and pay online at [MyDATCP.wi.gov](http://MyDATCP.wi.gov). Email any questions to [DATCPseed@wi.gov](mailto:DATCPseed@wi.gov).

## Updates on Box Tree Moth and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

In 2024, USDA-APHIS expanded the quarantines for the Box Tree Moth (BTM) (*Cydalis perspectalis*) and established conditions for interstate movement of regulated articles. The quarantine includes counties in Michigan, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, and (soon) Delaware and Pennsylvania.

BTM, whose green and black striped larvae feed exclusively on boxwood (*Buxus* spp.), is spreading quickly since being detected in the U.S. in 2021. Long-distance spread of BTM is mainly the result of movement of infested boxwood. Under the Federal Order, "Boxwood plants may only be moved interstate from a quarantined area from an establishment operating under a compliance agreement, and only if accompanied by a certificate issued by a State Agricultural Authority certifying that the requirements of this Federal Order and the compliance agreement have been met." If bringing in boxwood from a quarantined county, scout them thoroughly for BTM before incorporating into your operation.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) (*Adelges tsugae*) is an invasive aphid-like insect that attacks all species of hemlocks, killing millions of eastern and Carolina hemlocks in eastern states where it's been introduced. It has also become well-established nearby in western lower Michigan and eastern Ontario. Infestations on susceptible hemlocks lead to needle loss, branch dieback, and tree death in as little as four years. Because HWA adults are immobile, and immature crawlers only move short distances on their own, it is likely that it spread to new areas on infested nursery stock, firewood or logs. For this reason, Wisconsin's exterior HWA quarantine (ATCP 21.16) prohibits the movement of hemlock nursery stock and other products from all infested areas without a compliance agreement. See contact details for State Compliance Agreements on reverse side to sign up.

## Relief in Sight After Multiyear Spongy Moth Outbreak

After four consecutive years of increasing moth counts from 2020 to 2023 and destructive caterpillar outbreaks, spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*, formerly known as gypsy moth) catches plummeted in 2024. This season's trapping survey recorded a sharp decline in numbers, indicating that populations may be collapsing following a multiyear outbreak phase that peaked in 2023.

The 2024 spongy moth trapping program recorded an annual catch of 213,702 male moths in 8,921 traps, or 24 moths per trap average. This count is a 46% decrease from the 397,415 moths collected in 9,733 traps in 2023 (40.8 moths per trap average) and is comparable to the 201,549 moths collected in 2022.

Factors influencing the population collapse were the pathogens, nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV) and the fungus *Entomophaga maimaiga*. *E. maimaiga* is particularly effective against spongy moth caterpillars during wet, rainy seasons, and NPV tends to have larger impacts in larval populations that have become dense enough for the virus to spread rapidly among stressed caterpillars. DATCP and the DNR received many reports of caterpillar mortality this summer from landowners, residents, and foresters. These reports in combination with DNR reports of smaller, dime-sized egg masses found in eastern and central Wisconsin indicate this downward trend in populations will likely continue into next year.

Follow-up egg mass surveys at outlier sites in western Wisconsin were completed in October and yielded results comparable to historical averages in terms of presence/absence rates and infestation densities. New egg masses were found in half of the non-quarantined counties surveyed including Lafayette, Grant, La Crosse, Buffalo, Pepin, Dunn, Rusk, and Washburn counties. While the spongy moth outbreak phase may be subsiding in central and eastern Wisconsin, DATCP continues efforts to slow its ongoing spread in western Wisconsin. Planning and preparation for 2025 "Slow the Spread" treatments and trapping survey are underway.

## 2024 Licensing and Inspection Numbers

- There were 664 nursery grower, 1,265 nursery dealer, and 369 Christmas tree grower licenses issued. Of these, there were 83 new nursery grower, 121 new nursery dealer, and 17 new Christmas tree grower licenses issued.
- 55 nursery grower, 105 nursery dealer, and 18 Christmas tree grower licenses went out of business.
- There were no active nurseries with an expired license that did not renew.
- 406 of the 860 (47%) fields of licensed nursery growers were inspected this year.
- 431 of the 2,054 (21%) licensed nursery dealer sites were inspected this year.
- 499 of the 733 (68%) fields of licensed Christmas tree growers were inspected this year.

## UPCOMING 2025 EVENTS

**January 21-23**  
Northern Green Expo  
<http://northerngreen.org>

**January 26-27**  
Growing Wisconsin Conference  
<https://freshfruitvegetable.org>

**February 7-9**  
PBS Garden & Landscape Expo  
[www.wigardenexpo.com](http://www.wigardenexpo.com)

**February 16-18**  
Wisconsin Arborist Association  
WAA/DNR Annual Conference  
[www.waa-isa.org](http://www.waa-isa.org)

**February 20-22**  
Marbleseed Organic Farming Conference  
[www.marbleseed.org](http://www.marbleseed.org)

**February 26-28**  
iLandscape, IL + WI  
[www.ilandscapeshow.com](http://www.ilandscapeshow.com)

**July 31-August 11**  
Wisconsin State Fair  
[www.wisstatefair.com](http://www.wisstatefair.com)

**August 5-7**  
Farm Technology Days  
[www.wifarmtechnologydays.com](http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com)

**August 12-13**  
The Garden Center Show  
[www.gardencentershow.com](http://www.gardencentershow.com)

**August**  
WI Turfgrass Association Field Day  
<https://wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org>  
WCTPA Summer Field Day & Tradeshow  
[www.christmastrees-wi.org](http://www.christmastrees-wi.org)  
CGW Field Day  
[www.cgwi.org](http://www.cgwi.org)

**October 2026 (held biennially)**  
Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conf.  
[www.umisc.net](http://www.umisc.net)

STAY CONNECTED



**We want to hear from you! Please take this short survey to let us know how we're doing and how we can improve: <http://bit.ly/2S2PrPf>**