



## Green, Sawyer Counties Added to Wisconsin Spongy Moth Quarantine

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 15, 2026

**Contact:** Dan Richter, Public Information Officer, (608) 419-5352, [dan.richter@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dan.richter@wisconsin.gov)

MADISON, Wis. – Trapping data collected by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) indicates that the spongy moth, an invasive insect from Europe that feeds on the leaves of more than 300 tree species, is now widely established in Green and Sawyer counties. As a result, both counties have been placed under state and federal spongy moth quarantine, joining most of eastern and central Wisconsin already considered to be infested with the pest.

Fifty-six of Wisconsin’s 72 counties are now quarantined for spongy moth. The quarantine has the greatest impact on plant nurseries, Christmas tree growers, loggers, and sawmills because of movement restrictions and inspection requirements. These types of businesses must enter into a compliance agreement with state or federal plant regulatory officials certifying that their nursery stock and wood products are free of spongy moth before they can be transported into non-quarantined counties or states.

People living in a quarantine county must be careful when moving outdoor items. Because spongy moths can lay egg masses on nearly anything kept outside, and a single egg mass can contain up to a thousand eggs, there is a risk of spreading spongy moth when transporting items like patio furniture, campers, boat trailers, or firewood.

“Even though spongy moth populations are down overall statewide, there are still areas of Wisconsin with significant populations, and all it takes is one person moving a camper, boat, or other outdoor items with a spongy moth egg mass attached, to start a new infestation” said Brian Kuhn, director of DATCP’s Plant Industry Bureau. “This is very important if you are headed to areas in far western Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Iowa where spongy moth populations are sparse. A county can be infested without showing immediate damage, and it is important for everyone to practice diligence in order to keep this invasive pest from damaging more of our state’s plants and forests.”

It is important to remember the quarantine restrictions even though you may not notice widespread tree damage in the quarantine area. Spongy moth is an invasive pest that has been spreading westward since its introduction to North America. Spongy moth caterpillars feed on the leaves of many species of trees and shrubs, especially oaks, and can cause severe leaf loss when feeding in large numbers.

For more information, contact Plant Protection Section Manager Shahla Werner at (608) 957-5100 or [shahla.werner@wisconsin.gov](mailto:shahla.werner@wisconsin.gov).

### Additional Resources

- DATCP Spongy Moth Information: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/SpongyMoth.aspx>
- USDA – Your Move Spongy Moth Free: <http://www.yourmovespongy moth free.com>

###

Find more DATCP news in our [newsroom](#), on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).