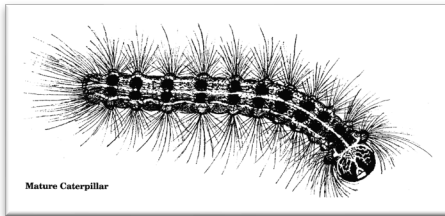


The EASY GUIDE to WISCONSIN'S SPONGY MOTH REGULATIONS

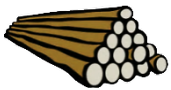


Spongy moth* is a non-native insect pest from Europe that is well-established in the eastern and central three-fourths of Wisconsin, where a quarantine regulation is in place. Spongy moth caterpillars feed on the leaves of about 300 species of trees and shrubs. At high populations, they may completely defoliate trees in the spring. Repeated defoliations may weaken trees and leave them susceptible to other insects and diseases. Adult spongy moth do not feed, but the adult females lay egg masses containing thousands of eggs which are easily

transported to new areas by humans on firewood, outdoor furniture, camping equipment, and vehicles. It is illegal to move regulated articles such as logs, firewood, or woody nursery stock outside the spongy moth quarantine area unless you are a business with a valid compliance agreement. A state compliance agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is needed by businesses prior to moving regulated articles from the quarantine, but within the state. A federal compliance agreement with the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) is needed by businesses prior to moving regulated articles from the quarantine area to other states. Below is information for businesses impacted the spongy moth quarantine in Wisconsin.

Mills, Loggers, and Exporters

- Logs and pulpwood may only be moved out of the spongy moth quarantine area to facilities authorized to receive them. Authorized facilities have signed a compliance agreement with either DATCP or USDA.
- All sawlogs and veneer logs must be inspected for spongy moth life stages by DATCP-trained personnel prior to leaving the quarantine area, and shipments must include an inspection statement.
 - From May through August, inspections must be done within five days of shipment.
 - From September through April, inspections must be done in a timely manner.
- From May through August, and prior to movement out of the quarantine area, logs must be protected from spongy moth by covering logs or by keeping them at least 100 feet from woody vegetation.
- Pulpwood from the quarantine area does not require an inspection, but the receiving facility shall segregate pulpwood from the spongy moth quarantine from non-regulated pulpwood and keep it at least 100 feet from woody vegetation.
 - In May and June, all pulpwood must be processed within five days of arrival. Residual bark must be destroyed or returned to the quarantine area.
 - From July through April, all pulpwood should be processed in a timely manner and must be processed by the end of April.
- Loggers shipping pulpwood from the spongy moth quarantine area to mills or staging yards outside the quarantine must provide documentation about the county of origin so the mill can take the necessary steps to mitigate the risk of new infestations. Interstate shippers should contact the USDA to obtain a limited permit for shipping to pulp mills outside the quarantine.



Green Lumber Manufacturers

- Lumber mills outside the quarantine area that receive logs from a business within the quarantine area must have a DATCP or USDA spongy moth compliance agreement and follow the regulations described above.
- Kiln-dried, square-edged lumber is exempt from Wisconsin's spongy moth regulations.





Pallet Manufacturers and Recyclers

- Pallets that may be shipped out of the quarantine area should be protected from infestation by covering them or by storing them at least 100 feet from woody vegetation.



Firewood Producers and Users

- Firewood movement from the quarantine is restricted except for treated firewood certified by either DATCP or USDA. For more information on DATCP-certified firewood, or to obtain a current dealer list, please visit the DATCP website at <http://firewood.wi.gov>.



Wood Waste

- No movement of wood chips with bark attached or bark fragments is allowed out of the quarantine area without a compliance agreement.
- Companies with compliance agreements treat wood waste to prevent the spread of spongy moth.
- Within the quarantine, it is strongly encouraged to chip all wood waste and to minimize the distance wood is moved in order to reduce the spread of spongy moth.



Nurseries

- No movement of trees or shrubs is allowed out of the spongy moth quarantine area unless stock is grown and shipped by a nursery that holds a valid compliance agreement. Agreement holders agree to inspect and treat if spongy moth life stages are found. DATCP staff inspect fields with nursery stock destined for other states annually. Treatment of fields may be required if viable spongy moth life stages are detected.



Christmas Trees

- No movement of Christmas trees is allowed out of the spongy moth quarantine area unless they are grown and shipped by a grower with a valid compliance agreement. Christmas trees destined for other states have fields inspected by DATCP staff annually. Stock may be restricted in fall, and spring treatments may be required if viable spongy moth life stages are detected.

*Businesses must make certain anyone handling regulated articles as part of business operations has been trained to identify this insect. DATCP has a spongy moth identification training video available online on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@widatcp Search for “2026 Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) Identification Training.” After watching the video, individuals can access a link to get credit for having taken the training and receive a unique training ID number issued by DATCP.*

Federal and state spongy moth quarantine boundaries are always subject to change. If you have any questions regarding the movement of logs, nursery stock, Christmas trees, untreated lumber, slab wood, chips, or firewood, please contact DATCP or USDA officials:

**Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection – Plant Protection Section
Meg Sanders – Forest Pest Regulatory Coordinator – (715) 891-8158 – MeganT.Sanders@WI.gov**

**U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
APHIS-PPQ Madison Office – (608) 286-3608**

* A new common name for *Lymantria dispar* as of 2022. Information in this factsheet pertains to the Wisconsin spongy moth quarantine ([ATCP 21.10](#) and Wisconsin State Statutes Ch. 93.07 and Ch. 94.01; and the federal spongy moth quarantine [Title 7 CFR 301.45](#)). **Updated: April 22, 2026**