

From: Jentz, Stephanie M - DATCP [<mailto:stephanie.jagemann@wisconsin.gov>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2022 3:44 PM
To: County Clerk; Edlin, Brent; Forestry-1; Human Services; Law Enforcement; Mackie, Thomas; Buck, Carol
Cc: Jentz, Stephanie M - DATCP; Foelker, Christopher J - DATCP
Subject: Spongy Moth Spraying – Washburn County

Date: April 4, 2022
To: Washburn County Officials
From: Stephanie Jentz, Spongy Moth Public Information Officer
Wisconsin Slow the Spread Program (STS)
Subject: Spongy Moth Spraying – Washburn County

The Wisconsin Slow the Spread Program is making plans to aerially spray for spongy moth (formerly known as gypsy moth) in Washburn County this year. Spraying typically starts in May and lasts until late July. Unfortunately, we cannot give you definite dates at this time because our spray schedule depends on weather conditions and spongy moth development.

We are providing you with information about our plans in case you receive calls from the public about our activities. We will also share this information with municipal officials if a municipality is in a spray area. Informational postcards inviting comments have been mailed to all citizens within or near a treatment area, and additional postcards with Btk and mating disruption information will be mailed to people living in and around the spray sites in early May and late June.

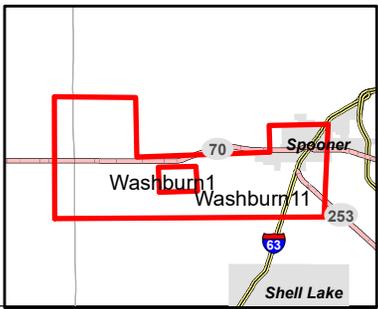
Please note our toll-free number: 1-800-642-6684(MOTH), and our e-mail, spongymoth@wisconsin.gov. Feel free to refer people to call or e-mail us if they have any questions. Additionally, our toll-free line carries a recorded message about our daily spray plans once spraying begins. Throughout the spraying season, we will send an e-mail notification about our spray plans and progress to the local media and those who are interested in receiving information. We will also send you an e-mail on each spray date for your county, informing you of our progress so you will know when we begin and finish. If you would like to be removed from this e-mailing list or have relevant updates or additions for our notification list, please let us know.

We will spray 17,193 total acres in Washburn County at two spray sites. We will be spraying 725 acres with *Bacillus thuringiensis* sub sp. *kurstaki* (Btk) at one site, and mating disruption on a total of 16,468 acres across one site. We have attached maps of the treatment areas to this email. You can find more information on the types of products we will be using and general information on the spongy moth program in the attached factsheets.

Please feel free to share this information with other officials and the public. You also can visit the WI-DATCP spongy moth [website](#), Twitter, and [Facebook](#) accounts for daily and live updates.

Thank you,

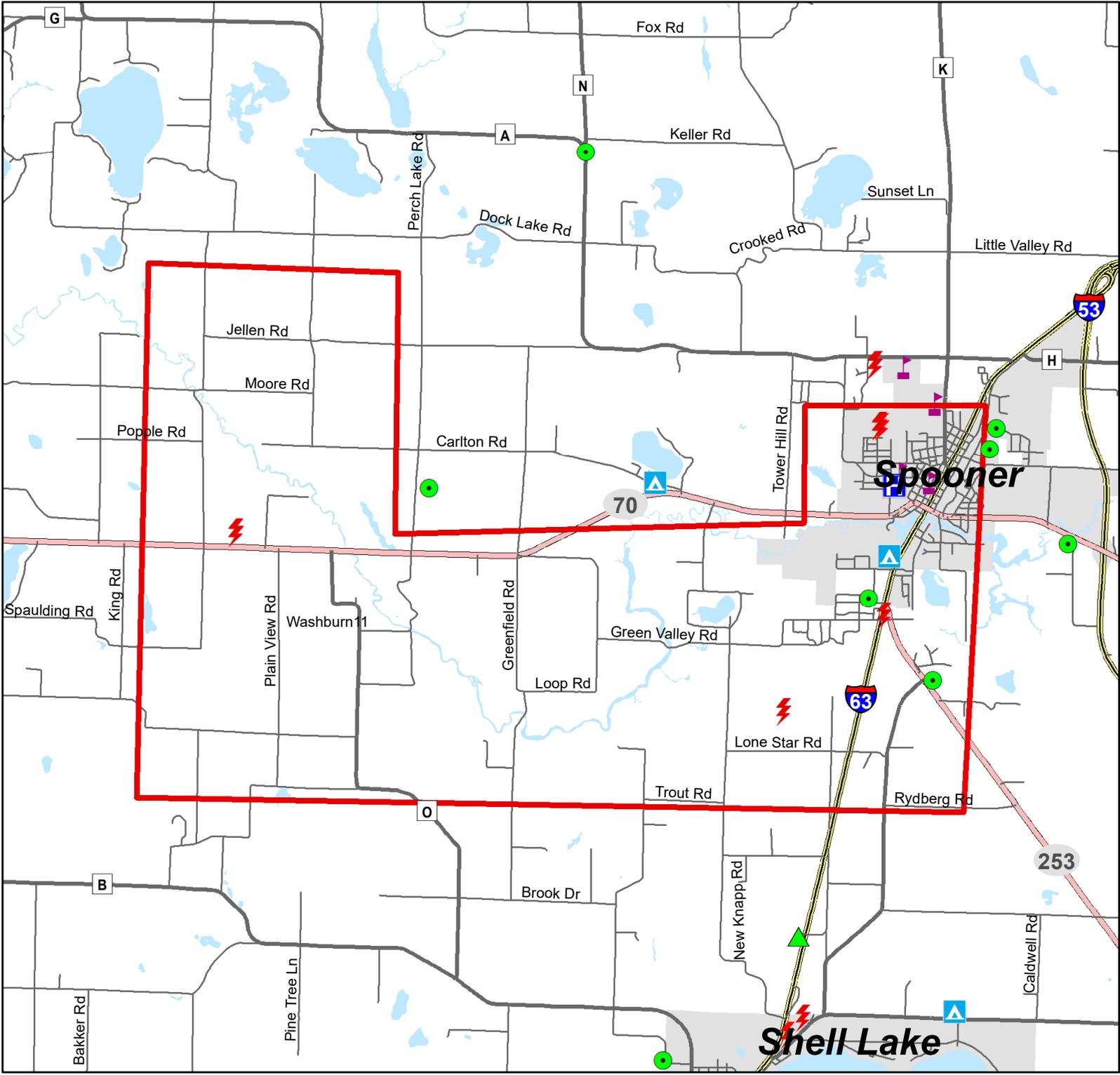
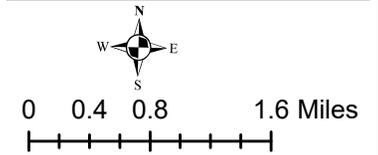
Stephanie Jentz
Spongy Moth Public Information Officer
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Madison, WI 53708
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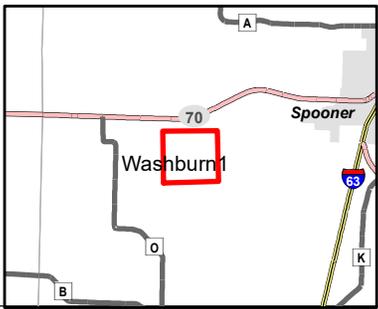


Mating Disruption Gypsy Moth Treatment Site 2022 Washburn11

Total Acres: 18027

-  Mating Disruption site
-  Deer Farm
-  Campground
-  Hospital
-  Organic Farm
-  School
-  Daycare
-  Airport
- FAA Obstacles (Dec 2019)
-  Transmission Line
-  Transmission Line tower
-  Utility Pole
-  Antenna
-  MET
-  Tower
-  Windmill





Proposed Gypsy Moth Treatment Site 2022

Washburn1

Treatment: Btk

Total Acres: 724

-  Antenna
-  MET
-  Tower
-  Windmill
-  Deer Farm
-  Campground
-  Organic Farm
-  School
-  Airport
-  spray_complaints_2020_all
-  Btk site



0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles



spongy moth

WISCONSIN COOPERATIVE
SPONGY MOTH PROGRAM

aerial
pesticide
applications

why planes are used

Spongy moth caterpillars feed on tree leaves. Airplanes are the most efficient and cost-effective way to apply products to the tree canopy over a large area. Aerial application uses less than a gallon of pesticide per acre and is far less expensive per acre than ground-based pesticide applications.

pilots and aerial spray companies

Professional pilots who fly the spray planes are licensed and certified by the Federal Aviation Administration. They are also licensed and certified by the State of Wisconsin as commercial pesticide applicators. Wisconsin also accepts applicator licensing and certification from qualified states.

Businesses that provide aerial application of pesticides are licensed by the State of Wisconsin. The companies that were awarded the spray contracts for the Wisconsin Spongy Moth Program meet all of Wisconsin's strict requirements as pesticide application businesses.

spray planes

- Spray planes require special flight training.
- The planes carry global positioning systems (GPS) for computer-controlled spraying precision.
- While the spray planes are flying, they are monitored by observers in planes flown by Wisconsin DNR pilots.

security measures

In recent years, public concern has increased about the possible use of spray planes as instruments of terrorism. The pilots and the Wisconsin Cooperative Spongy Moth Program are aware of this concern and take extra precautions during spongy moth treatments including:

- An established chain of custody from the product manufacturers to Wisconsin for all of the biological pesticides.
- Securing pesticides according to the current pesticide law.
- Identification requirements and restricted access to planes.
- On-site security.
- Notification of local law enforcement, local officials and local media.
- Planes are secured or disabled when not in use.

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

spongy moth

WISCONSIN COOPERATIVE
SPONGY MOTH PROGRAM

background

exotic pest

- Native to Europe and Asia
- Introduced to North America in 1869 near Boston
- Distributed from Maine south to Virginia, and west through Wisconsin
- Well established in eastern and central Wisconsin and is spreading westward into Minnesota

damage

- Caterpillars feed on the leaves of up to 500 species of trees and shrubs, favoring oak
- May defoliate several million acres in the U.S. during the summer months
- Defoliated trees grow a new set of leaves, but are weakened and may be killed by other pests
- The first defoliation occurred in Wisconsin in 1999

lifecycle

- Caterpillars emerge from late April to late May and begin feeding
- Stop feeding and pupate, forming a cocoon in late June to mid-July
- Adult moths emerge from pupae, mate and die in mid-July to early August
- Eggs overwinter in a protective egg mass
- Each female lays an average of 600 eggs in an egg mass

rapid spread

- Spongy moths thrive in many habitats because they are not picky eaters
- Because they're not native to North America, they have few natural enemies
- Egg masses are often moved long distances and into new areas on firewood, vehicles, tree trimmings, and other outdoor items

Wisconsin's cooperative program goals

- The "Slow the Spread" Program aims to delay the establishment of spongy moth in the western part of the state and to eradicate isolated populations there
- The DNR "Suppression" Program aims to reduce high spongy moth populations to prevent defoliation in established areas and facilitate federal cost sharing for the suppression treatments

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spongy moth

WISCONSIN COOPERATIVE
SPONGY MOTH PROGRAM

Btk
treatment

type of product

Foray, containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk), is a strain of a common soil bacteria that occurs naturally. It is a bacterial insecticide cultured by fermenting grains and potatoes with fish or corn meal, similar to brewing beer. The final product contains 90% water, the leftover growth medium, carbohydrates, inert ingredients approved as food additives, and the active ingredient.

how Btk works

The active ingredient is a toxic protein produced by bacteria when the product is fermented. The protein interacts with bacteria in the caterpillar's digestive tract to kill the caterpillar within a few days.

what Btk affects

Different strains of *Bacillus thuringiensis* affect different species of insects. The *kurstaki* strain affects the caterpillars of moths and butterflies that ingest it. Not all species of caterpillar are affected by Btk, but spongy moth, tent caterpillars, and Karner blue butterflies are all susceptible. We do not use Btk where we know there are Karner blue butterflies or other threatened or endangered species of moths and butterflies that could be harmed. Numerous studies have documented no apparent toxicity for humans, pets, wild animals, birds, honeybees, or fish. Due to rare cases of mild, short-lasting allergic reactions by humans, you may wish to stay indoors with your windows closed during a spray if you have severe food or chemical sensitivities.

application rate and timing

Btk is applied at the rate of 3/4 gallon per acre. Most effective if applied when spongy moth caterpillars have hatched and begun feeding, usually mid-May in southern Wisconsin through early June further north.

why we use Btk

- Breaks down in sunlight within days
- Highly effective; around 90-95% mortality of spongy moth caterpillars normally seen in treated areas
- No apparent toxicity to people, animals, and insects other than caterpillars

The current year's spray program information, including maps of proposed spray sites, will be available online starting in early February at the website below or by emailing spongymoth@wisconsin.gov.

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

spongy moth

WISCONSIN COOPERATIVE
SPONGY MOTH PROGRAM

impact

exotic pest

- Caterpillars feed on the leaves of up to 500 species of trees and shrubs, favoring oak
- May defoliate several million acres in the U.S. during the summer months
- Defoliated trees grow a new set of leaves, but are weakened and may be killed by other pests

impact on people

- Expense to homeowners and communities of removing and replacing dead trees
- Potential decline in property values from tree loss
- Allergic reactions to caterpillar hair
- Nuisance

cost to businesses

- Inspections and treatments for nursery and Christmas tree growers, timber interests, and paper companies shipping materials to non-infested areas
- Lost recreation dollars
- Environmental damage

rapid spread

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spongy moth

WISCONSIN COOPERATIVE
SPONGY MOTH PROGRAM

SPLAT
treatment

type of product

The most common pheromone-based mating disruptor applied in Wisconsin is SPLAT, small waxy droplets infused with female spongy moth pheromone. Both synthetic and organic formulations of SPLAT are used.

how it works

When an area is treated with SPLAT, the scent of the female moth floods the area and confuses male spongy moths so they cannot find females. This is effective because the spongy moths are at the end of their life cycle, they die without reproducing. SPLAT does not actually kills moths; they just carry the scent and prevent reproduction.

what it looks like

SPLAT is a relatively new product that serves as an alternative delivery system for female spongy moth pheromone. SPLAT is made out of the pheromone mixed with a waxy matrix to help it stick to the leaves. After applied this will look like small white droplets that can be washed off skin or surfaces with soap and water.

application method and timing

SPLAT is applied aerially by low flying applicator planes. Seven ounces of the product are used per acre. This is only about six grams of pheromone per acre. Applications start in southern Wisconsin. One application between late June and late July, just before moths emerge from cocoons.

why we use SPLAT

- The pheromone is detectable only to spongy moths; no other species are impacted.
- Used where endangered or threatened species of butterflies and moths are feeding during spray season.
- Dead and dying caterpillars become soft and limp, which is why the viral disease is known as “wilt.”
- Only effective in areas with low spongy moth populations.

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