

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is aerially spraying target areas in western Wisconsin counties to protect against the non-native, invasive spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) as part of the Slow the Spread Program. These aerial treatments are the safest, most efficient and effective methods to slow the moth's spread and impact. Maps of treatment areas and aerial spray plans are available at SMAerialSpray.wi.gov.

Residents in and near treatment sites can expect to see and hear loud, low-flying planes as early as sunrise on spray days. From June 30 to mid-July, planes will spray spongy moth pheromone, or mating disruptor (MD), over a total of 3842 acres across two sites in St. Croix County. Rather than killing moths, these treatments release a pheromone that prevents male moths from finding females, thereby preventing reproduction. The treatments are organic, biodegradable, do not impact other insects, and will not affect animals such as birds, fish, or people.

We cannot predict exact treatment dates this far ahead of schedule because they are dependent on weather conditions and spongy moth development. As our treatment season approaches, we will keep officials and the public updated on our plans via multiple methods of communication:

- Informational open-house public meetings were publicized via press release and social media and held in March to increase public awareness of DATCP's upcoming spray activities and provide an opportunity for comments, questions, or other feedback.
- Postcards with spray information which were mailed to people living in and around these sites approximately two weeks before the anticipated start of spray activities.
- Throughout the spraying season, e-mail notifications of spray plans and progress will be sent to the local media, county staff and municipal staff in or near spray areas.
- Live updates will be posted on our website, Facebook and X pages.
- Our toll-free spongy moth hotline (listed below) will have pre-recorded messages updated as soon as spray plans are available.

Below is a list of resources mentioned in this letter, as well as additional resources that you may find helpful to read and provide to the public should they have any questions or concerns regarding spongy moth or our spray activities:

DATCP Spongy Moth Hotline:	1-800-642-6684(MOTH)
DATCP Spongy Moth Hotline Email:	spongymoth@wisconsin.gov
DATCP Spongy Moth Aerial Spray website:	SMAerialSpray.wi.gov
DATCP Facebook URL:	facebook.com/widatcp
DATCP X URL:	x.com/widatcp
Wisconsin Spongy Moth Resource Center:	spongymoth.wi.gov