



DESTROY THE EGG MASSES

Slide the edge of a knife blade under the egg mass, lift the mass off and dispose of it. Egg masses can be placed in the garbage, burned, or buried in the garden or compost pile. Do not scrape them off and leave them on the ground as this does not destroy the eggs and they will hatch in the spring.

Since there are about a thousand eggs in each mass, destroying egg masses is one of the most effective and least expensive measures the property owner can take to protect trees. When spongy moth populations are very high, it will be virtually impossible to find and destroy all of the egg masses on your property and other control methods, such as spraying the trees with an insecticide, may be necessary.

NOTIFY US

If you notice spongy moth egg masses, caterpillars, or leaf damage in your trees in the spring and early summer, please notify the Spongy Moth Suppression Program at one of the offices listed in this pamphlet.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Forest Pest Management Regional Offices

Northeast Office

3525 Conowingo Road, Suite 400
Street, Maryland 21154
410-879-8034

northeastfpm@gmail.com
Baltimore City, Baltimore, Cecil, Harford
and Kent counties

Eastern Shore Office

28577 Mary's Court, Suite 4
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-8234

Heather.disque@maryland.gov
Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, Talbot,
Wicomico and Worcester counties

Central Office

92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 160
Frederick, Maryland 21702
301-662-2074

central.fpm@maryland.gov
Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery,
and E. Washington counties

Southern Office

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-5931

Grace.nagel@maryland.gov
Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties

Western Office

3 Pershing Street, Room 110
Cumberland, Maryland 21502
301-777-3601

mdafpmwestern@gmail.com
Alleghany, Garrett, and W. Washington counties

Citizen input is important to us

MDA-14-002-05



SPONGY MOTH

(Lymantria dispar)

WHAT THE PROPERTY OWNER CAN DO

DESTROY EGG MASSES



Trees defoliated by spongy moth caterpillars

**Maryland Department of Agriculture
Forest Pest Management Section
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
www.mda.maryland.gov**

**410-841-5922
fpm.mda@maryland.gov**

**Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
Steve Connelly, Deputy Secretary**



Spongy Moth Egg Mass – life size – in ivy on a tree trunk.



Tiny, newly emerged caterpillars resting on spongy moth egg mass

LEARN WHAT SPONGY MOTH EGG MASSES LOOK LIKE

In late June or early July, the spongy moth female lays about a thousand eggs in a single mass. Spongy moth egg masses are about the size of a quarter, are oval, raised in the center and are tan to light brown in color. Because the female moth deposits hairs and scales from her body in the mass, it appears slightly fuzzy. The mass adheres to the surface on which it was laid - it is not in a web, tent or bag. The egg mass will remain where the female laid it until the following spring when the tiny caterpillars hatch, usually around April 15th.

Persons with allergies should use care when handling egg masses. The hairs and scales can be highly allergenic.



Spongy Moth egg masses on the trunk of an oak tree

LEARN WHERE TO FIND SPONGY MOTH EGG MASSES

Spongy moth females lay their egg masses in shaded, “protected” places such as the underside of tree limbs, crevices in tree bark, ivy covered tree trunks and buildings, the underside of lawn furniture, inside the wheel wells of campers and trailers, under the eaves of houses and storage buildings, and on the foundations of houses. They also like woodpiles and the inside of birdhouses!



Look for egg masses in wood piles



Look for egg masses under lawn furniture