

# SPONGY MOTH



Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
2270 Old Penitentiary Road  
Boise, Idaho 83712

**ADULT  
MALE  
FLIES IN DAYLIGHT**



**PUPA  
2 WEEKS**



**LARVA  
FEEDS 5-6 WEEKS**





**ADULT  
FEMALE  
WITH EGG MASS**





**EGG MASS  
500+ EGGS**

## BE INFORMED

 Spongy moths are among America's most destructive, non-native invasive forest insect pests!


 Each spongy moth egg mass will produce up to 1000 new caterpillars. That's 1000 hungry mouths to feed!


 Caterpillars consume massive amounts of foliage during their short life, placing enormous stress on trees. A defoliated tree is more susceptible to disease and other insects that may ultimately kill it.

 All of this feeding is very noisy and fouls the environment with layers of droppings and shed skins before the caterpillars pupate.



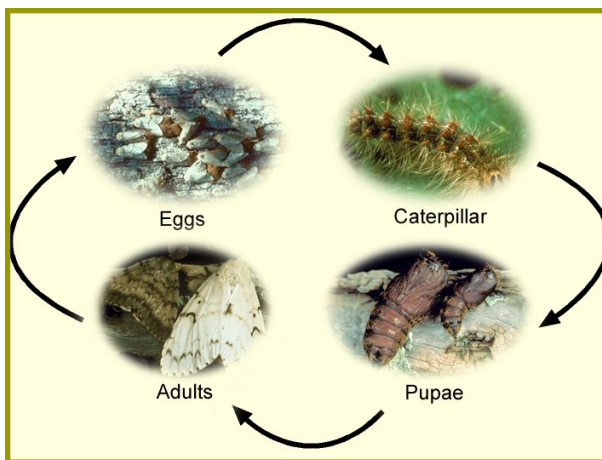
## IF YOU FIND A TRAP, REMEMBER...

 Don't disturb the traps! Survey traps are our **BEST** early detection system for finding spongy moths before they damage our trees.

 The traps are non-toxic and cannot harm humans or pets.

**EGGS:** Eggs are laid in a fuzzy, buff-colored mass about the size of a quarter. Each egg mass contains an average of 500 - 1000 eggs. Eggs are laid during August and September and hatch the following spring beginning in late April. Egg masses may be laid on tree trunks, under tree wraps, in automobile wheel wells or on almost any available surface.


**LARVA: (Caterpillar)** This is the only damaging stage. A single caterpillar can eat up to three square feet of leaves in its lifetime. The caterpillars are voracious feeders and can grow to 2" in length. Larger caterpillars have five pairs of blue spots and six pairs of rusty red spots along their backs. They typically feed in the treetops at night but migrate down the trunk to the ground each day as protection from heat and birds.




**PUPA: (Cocoon)** The pupa is an immobile stage during which the caterpillar changes into an adult moth. Pupae may gyrate if they are disturbed, but left alone they will appear still as the change occurs. They are dark reddish brown and leathery. Pupae attach themselves to a vertical surface with strands of silk. They are usually found in crevices on tree trunks or on larger branches. Pupae may also be found buried in leaf litter.


**ADULT:** Adult moths emerge in July and are present until early October, depending upon location. Females have tan bodies from 1" to 2" long. Their wings are cream colored with dark brown zigzag markings. They are heavy and do not fly. Instead, females emit a scent to attract a mate. Scientists have been able to mimic this scent and use it to trap male moths. Males are medium sized, brownish gray, have feathery antennae and fly in the late afternoon. Adult moths do not feed.


## WATCH OUT FOR "HITCHHIKERS":

 Female spongy moths deposit egg masses on the nearest available surface. This includes outdoor recreation equipment, such as grills, lawn chairs, outdoor toys, recreational vehicles, tents, and especially firewood.

 Always inspect outdoor equipment and vehicles. Remove any "hitchhikers" before you enter Idaho from quarantined states: Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Minnesota.

## LET'S NOT ADD IDAHO TO THE QUARANTINE LIST!

 Spongy moth caterpillars feed on several hundred species of trees and shrubs. Preferred broadleaf hosts include oak, apple, alder, aspen, filbert, willow, birch, and plum. Coniferous species such as Douglas-fir and Western hemlock are suitable hosts as well. If spongy moths were to get established in Idaho, they would have the potential of becoming a very serious urban landscape and forest pest. This invasive species would not only result in ecological harm to Idaho, but seriously damage landscape trees and result in the increased use of insecticides to control their infestations. If Idaho were added to the list of quarantined states, it would prevent or slow down the movement on nursery stock, lumber, and many other products being shipped out of the state. This would result in large scale economic losses to the impacted industries.

 If you discover spongy moth "hitchhikers" upon entering Idaho, notify the Idaho State Department of Agriculture or Idaho Department of Lands immediately.

[www.isda.idaho.gov](http://www.isda.idaho.gov)  
(208) 332-8620



[www.idl.idaho.gov](http://www.idl.idaho.gov)  
(208) 666-8626



[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)  
(208)378-5797



[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)  
(208)373-4227

If you spot spongy moth caterpillars, adults, or egg masses...

Note the exact location.  
Take a digital photo if possible.

Immediately call : ISDA (208) 332-8620 or  
IDL (208) 666-8626