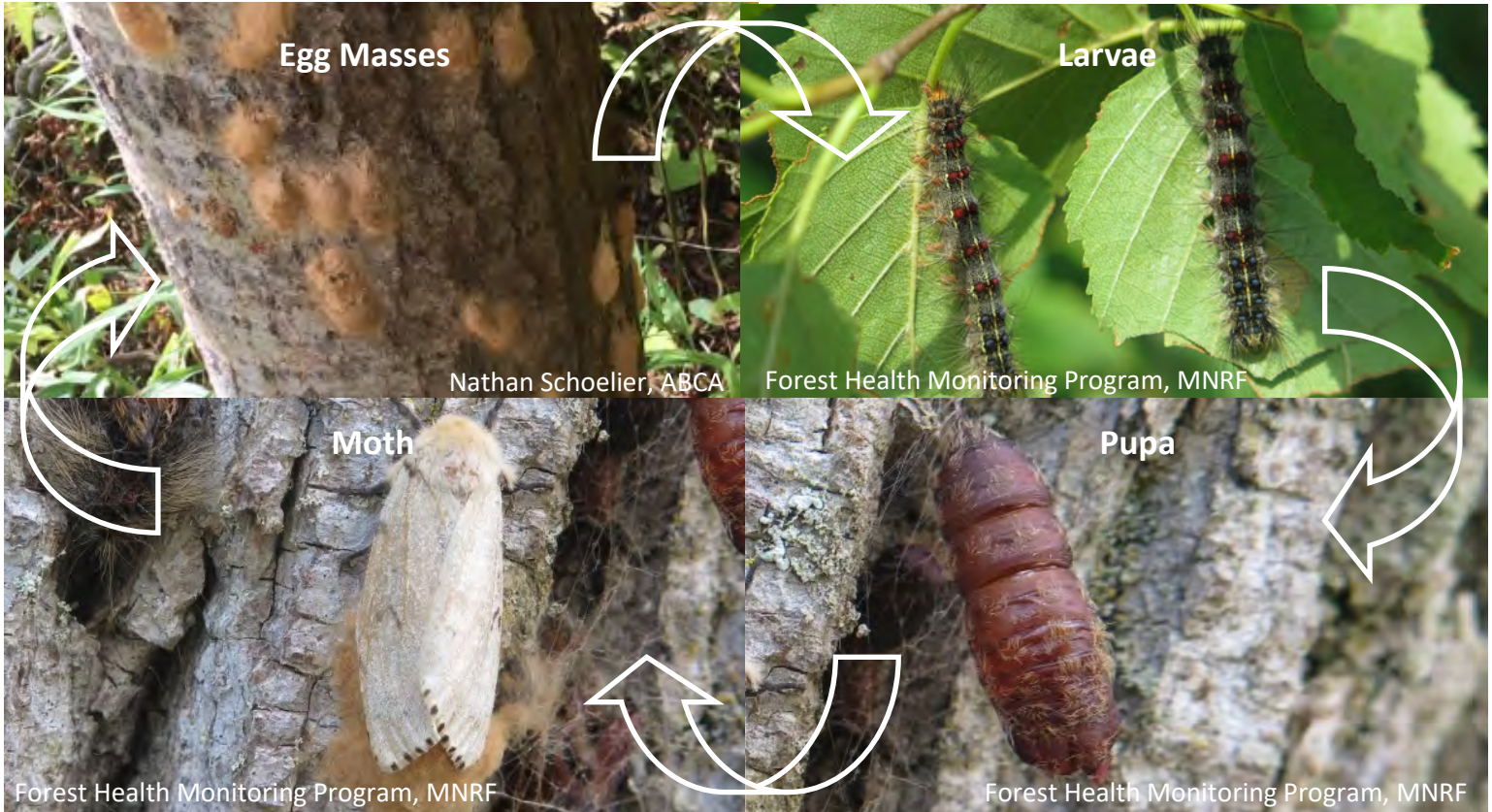


Landowner Guide to Spongy Moth Management

(*Lymantria dispar*)

General Overview

- An invasive insect to North America, native to Asia and Europe
- Defoliates host trees, with Oak and Poplar being among the insect's favourite host trees
- During Spongy Moth outbreaks, severe defoliation can be observed across the landscape
- Defoliation results in aesthetic concerns, severe defoliation or defoliation across consecutive years can negatively impact tree health and survival



Identification Features

Time of Year

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------|
| Egg Mass | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 4 cm in size, orange-tan soft mass • Commonly found on tree trunks, can be on other structures | September to late April |
| Larvae | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-6 cm caterpillar, has 5 pairs of blue dots followed by 6 pairs of red dots along its back | May to August |
| Pupa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-6 cm. Hard shell, brown with fine hairs • Commonly found in bark crevices, can be on other structures | June to late August |
| Moth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Females are white, have a 5cm. wingspan but cannot fly • Males are brown, have a 2.5cm. wingspan, are able to fly | July to September |

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)

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Landowner Guide to Spongy Moth Management

(*Lymantria dispar*)

What can you do to protect your trees?

Remove & Dispose of Egg Masses – November through until late April

- Removing and disposing of egg masses is an effective way to prevent the emergence of thousands of caterpillars
- Scrape the egg masses off of the tree with a dull knife and place them into a sealable bag or a container of soapy water for a few days before discarding of them



Place Sticky Barriers on Trees - Late April through until late May

- Placing sticky barriers on the trunk of the tree can inhibit some of the young caterpillars from crawling up the tree
- A few rounds of either double sided tape, or inverted duct tape applied to the tree trunk

Install Burlap Bands – Late May until late August

- Placing burlap bands on the trunk of the tree provides a location for the caterpillars to congregate during the day
- Place burlap on the tree (approx. 1m high), attach it in the middle and fold it down over itself to create a "pocket." Every afternoon, collect the caterpillars that have congregated within the burlap; squish or place them in soapy water to reduce caterpillar numbers



In March 2022, Entomological Societies of Canada and America adopted the name Spongy Moth as the new common name for the moth species *Lymantria dispar*.

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