

2024 Spongy Moth (formerly gypsy moth) (*Lymantria dispar dispar*, LDD) Suppression Program Overview

Spongy Moth Suppression



- The 2024 LDD suppression program will include 185 sites totaling 227,820 acres.
- Included will be parts of 12 forest districts, 18 state parks, and one federal land in 20 counties located in southcentral, central, north central, and northeast PA.
- The PA Game Commission oversees a separate suppression program on game lands.
- Treatments take place from late April to early June depending on weather conditions and insect development.

Spongy Moth Impact and History

- *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD) (spongy moth; former name – gypsy moth) is an invasive insect that can impact the health of Pennsylvania's forests.
- The state's oak stands are especially vulnerable.
- The bureau targets treatment where there is high risk for infestation and ecological damage.
- The bureau has sprayed spongy moth to maintain forest health since 1972.
- Suppression is initiated when >250 LDD egg masses per acre

Pesticides

- Aerial spraying is conducted by helicopter and/or fixed-wing aircraft so that a low volume of insecticide can be applied to the forest canopy.
- *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* (Btk) (Foray 76B) is a naturally-occurring biological insecticide and the first elected for use. It is commonly used throughout the world, often in organic farming.
- Tebufenozide (Mimic 2LV) is an insect growth regulator that is used with difficult-to-control LDD populations.

Safety

- Often applied in agricultural settings, the chemicals used are deemed safe and subject to environmental review.
- Forest users should be aware of suppression activities by checking with the local forest district office.
- The bureau notifies the public of suppression activities via signage, the press, and social media.



Timing/Life Cycle

- Females lay their eggs as light tan egg masses (100-1,500 eggs/mass) on trees, stones, and other substrates during the summer.



- Eggs hatch from mid-April to early May the following spring.
- Treatments begin in the spring (usually May) when 50 percent of the caterpillars are in their second instar, so timing is critical.
- The time window for suppression activities to achieve optimal results is short and can be compromised by weather.

More Information

- For information on pesticide safety or the suppression program in general, please see:

www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsAndTrees/InsectsAndDiseases/SpongyMoth/Pages/default.aspx

Contact the Div. of Forest Health

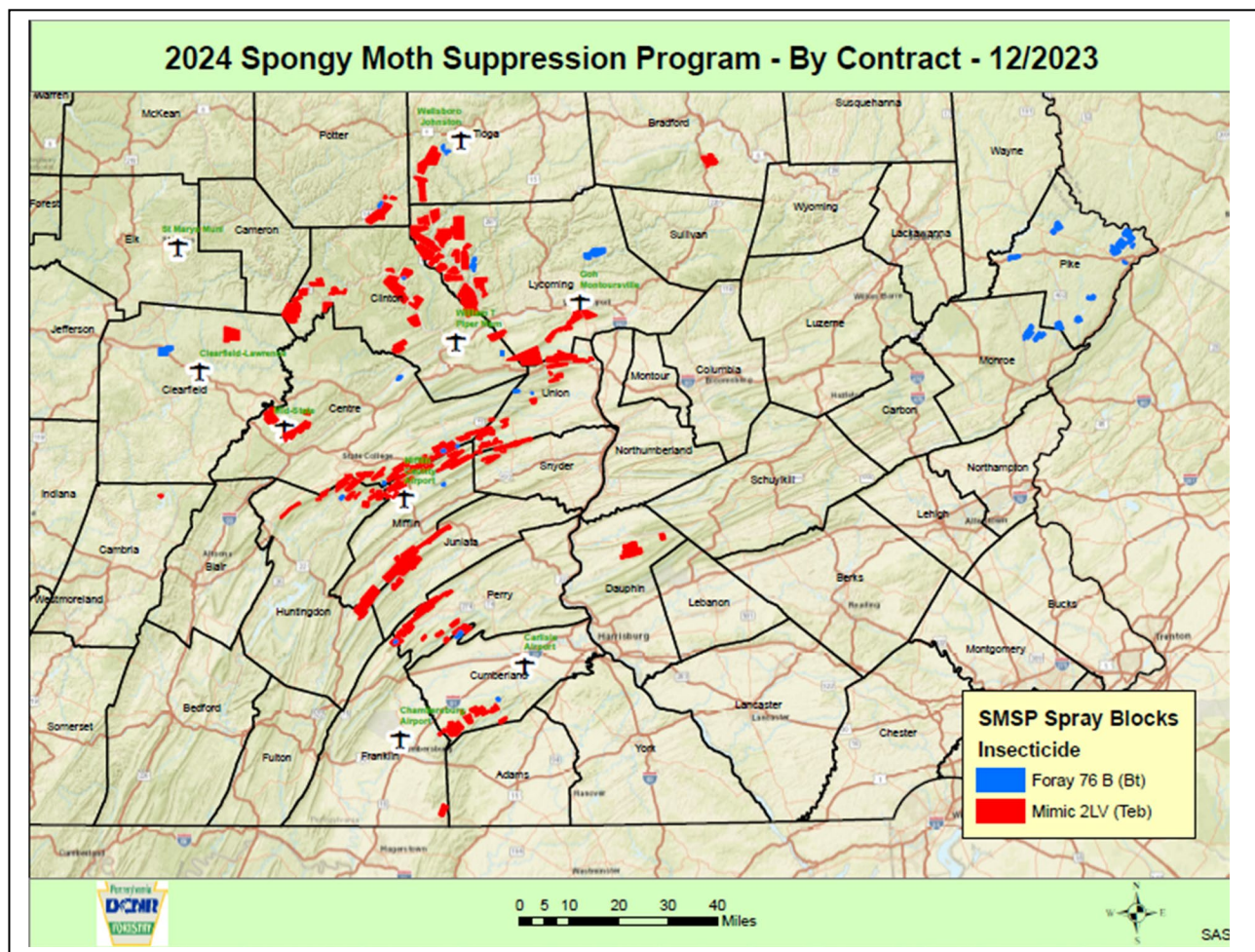
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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2024	Rotary Btk				Fixed Wing Btk		Fixed Wing Tebufenozide		Total	
	Single App Blocks	Double App Blocks	Single App Acres	Double App Acres	Blocks	Acres	Blocks	Acres	Blocks (Single + Double App)	Acres (Single + Double App)
State Forest	23	11	15,018	5,124	0	0	128	204,553	161	224,695
State Parks	20	0	2,740	0	0	0	1	227	21	2,967
Federal Lands	1	1	79	79	0	0	0	0	2	158
Totals	44	12	17,837	5,203	0	0	129	204,780	185	227,820



Note: Mimic 2LV (Teb) is Fixed Wing (FPM24_03) and Foray 76 B (Bt) is Rotary (FPM24_01)