

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2025-14
April 1, 2025

Subject: APHIS Adds La Crosse County, Wisconsin, to the Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) Quarantined Area

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the state of Wisconsin are expanding the list of quarantined areas for spongy moth (formerly known as gypsy moth¹) by adding La Crosse County, Wisconsin. The moth population in this county has reached the threshold to trigger the quarantine expansion.

To prevent further spread of spongy moth, the attached Federal Order provides notification that APHIS is adding La Crosse County in Wisconsin to the regulated area in accordance with [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.45](#) *et. seq.* As required by [7 CFR § 301.45-2\(b\)\(1\)](#), Wisconsin has established a parallel state quarantine. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of regulated articles from La Crosse County must be handled in accordance with [7 CFR § 301.45-4](#).

Spongy moth is a destructive insect of approximately 300 species of trees and shrubs. The Spongy Moth Program prescribes conditions for the interstate movement of regulated articles from quarantined areas. The Federal and state partnership limits the establishment of spongy moth outside the quarantined area that would result from human-assisted movement of the pest. We appreciate the cooperative relationship with Wisconsin in the effort to prevent the spread of spongy moth.

The full lists of spongy moth quarantined areas and regulated articles are on the [APHIS Spongy Moth webpage](#). APHIS will publish a notice of this change in the Federal Register.

For additional information you may contact Kathryn Bronsky at kathryn.e.bronsky@usda.gov or (301) 851-2147.



Dr. Mark L Davidson
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

¹ [APHIS Announces New Common Names for Regulated Lymantria Moths](#)

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

FEDERAL ORDER

APHIS Adds La Crosse County, Wisconsin,
to the Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) Quarantined Area

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Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the state of Wisconsin are expanding the list of quarantined areas for spongy moth (formerly known as gypsy moth¹) by adding La Crosse County, Wisconsin. The spongy moth population in La Crosse County has reached the threshold to trigger the quarantined area. Accordingly, the APHIS Administrator finds it necessary to quarantine the county to prevent the spread of spongy moth. All interstate movement of spongy moth-regulated articles from La Crosse County in Wisconsin must be done in accordance with the regulations implemented pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found at [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.45](#) *et. seq.* and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order. APHIS will publish a notice of this change in the Federal Register.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, [Section 412\(a\), 7 U.S.C. 7712\(a\)](#). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. The regulatory authority provided by [7 U.S.C. 7754](#) allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act.

APHIS confirmed spongy moth infestations in various areas of the United States, for which the Administrator has determined that quarantined areas are necessary to prevent the spread of the moth. The full lists of spongy moth quarantined areas and regulated articles are on the [APHIS Spongy Moth webpage](#).

[7 CFR § 301.45-2\(b\)](#) allows the designation of less than an entire state as a spongy moth quarantined area only when two criteria are met. First, that the state enforces an intrastate spongy moth quarantine equivalent to the Federal quarantine. In accordance, the State Plant Regulatory Official (SPRO) for Wisconsin has confirmed the establishment of an intrastate quarantine for the regulated area that mirrors the Federal interstate quarantine. Second, that the APHIS Administrator has determined, as in this case, that the designation of less than an entire state as a quarantined-spongy moth area is adequate to prevent the artificial interstate spread of infestations.

¹ [APHIS Announces New Common Names for Regulated Lymantria Moths](#)

[7 CFR § 301.45-2\(c\)](#) provides the temporary designation of new quarantined areas to be added to the list on the APHIS Spongy Moth webpage and requires written notification to the owner or person who possesses a newly quarantined area. This is the responsibility of the Federal and/or state regulatory personnel responsible for the Spongy Moth Program in the affected state.

For more details on the Spongy Moth Program and Federal spongy moth regulations, please contact Kathryn Bronsky at kathryn.e.bronsky@usda.gov or (301) 851-2147. For information on regulatory requirements for the movement of articles out of quarantined areas in Wisconsin, please contact the Wisconsin State Plant Health Director (SPHD), Christopher Deegan, at christopher.deegan@usda.gov or (608) 286-3608.

Spongy moth is a destructive insect of approximately 300 species of trees and shrubs. The Spongy Moth Program prescribes conditions for the interstate movement of regulated articles from quarantined areas. The Federal and state partnership limits the establishment of spongy moth outside the quarantined areas that would result from artificial (human-assisted) movement of the pest. We appreciate the cooperative relationship with Wisconsin in the effort to prevent the spread of spongy moth.