

Asian Defoliator Survey

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, in cooperation with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (APHIS-PPQ), conducts detection surveys for Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*), Flighted Spongy Moth Complex (*Lymantria dispar asiatica*), Rosy Moth (*L. mathura*), Nun Moth (*L. monacha*), and the Siberian Silk Moth (*Dendrolimus sibiricus*). Survey participants throughout the state representing the Cooperative Extension Service (CES), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and various volunteers deployment monitoring traps statewide.

Trapping efforts focus primarily on the likely pathways for introduction, targeting port communities, international borders, shipping and container facilities, and high use recreational sites. The Flighted Spongy Moth, for example, has been documented numerous times on the superstructures of ships and cargo originating from infested ports and locations in Asia where the species occurs natively.

In the summer of 2014, CBP intercepted FSMC egg masses on a bulk carrier vessel in Juneau, Alaska. In previous years, interceptions by CBP Agriculture Officers have been made near Ketchikan on ships originating from Asia.. The Division of Agriculture is continuing this survey and monitoring effort in 2024 and will work with appropriate cooperators to continue these survey efforts. The trapping survey provides a second line of defense to CBP detection efforts in the event the targeted species are not initially detected at the source of transport.

Spongy moth monitoring began in Alaska in 1983 and positive identifications of Spongy Moth have been confirmed in several locations. All the trap detections were singletons. The most recent positive trap detection for Spongy Moth in Alaska was in 2006, in Fairbanks near an RV park where a single male was captured.

Although targeted exotic defoliating moths have been detected in traps deployed in Alaska, so far, they have only been isolated individuals and reproducing populations are not known to be established. Recent offshore vessel detections warrant a concern for the possibility of overwintering egg masses in or near Alaska's port communities. Interagency cooperation and support in these survey efforts is essential to maintaining an early detection, rapid response network throughout the state.

Common Name/ Scientific Name

Pest: Flighted Spongy Moth/ *Lymantria dispar asiatica*

Spongy Moth/ *Lymantria dispar*

Nun Moth/ *Lymantria monacha*

Rosy Moth/ *Lymantria mathura*

Siberian Silk Moth/ *Dendrolimus sibiricus*

Counties: Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star, Ketchikan Gateway, Kenai Peninsula, Juneau, Matanuska Susitna, Southeast Fairbanks,



European Gypsy Moth, Male, caught in a sticky trap in 2006, Fairbanks, Alaska.



Offloaded containers in ports are potential pathways for AGM egg mass vectoring.



Loaded trap in Southeast Alaska, no target species detected (2022, Juneau, Alaska)