



Let the Spongy Moth Egg Mass Scraping Begin!

Spring is the time to scrape and destroy Spongy Moth egg masses! Spongy Moth (formerly Gypsy Moth) is an invasive insect affecting forested, urban and suburban areas. The caterpillars feed on a wide variety of trees and shrubs in spring and summer, preferring oaks. They can cause widespread and severe defoliation (leaf loss) and nuisance impacts when their populations are high. The St. Clair County Spongy Moth Suppression Program recommends scraping and destroying as many egg masses as you can safely reach around your home in March and April before they hatch into hungry caterpillars later in the spring. Wear gloves and a mask to protect yourself from the irritating hairs. Every egg mass removed now means 100-1000 fewer caterpillars later. Egg masses are beige to tan in color, about the size of a quarter or less, and can be attached to tree trunks, lap siding, vehicles, firewood, or nearly any outdoor object. Merely scraping the egg masses and letting them fall to the ground may result in caterpillars still hatching, so destroying by soaking the egg masses in soapy water for at least 24 hours, burning, or burying six inches deep or more in the soil are advised. For more information, visit stclaircounty.org/caterpillars or contact Kirsten Lyons at klyons@stclaircounty.org, 810-989-6317.