

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2026-13
April 8, 2026

Subject: APHIS Adds Green and Sawyer Counties, 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 (*Lymantria dispar*, formerly known as gypsy moth¹) by adding Green and Sawyer Counties in Wisconsin. The moth populations in these counties have 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 Green and Sawyer Counties in Wisconsin to the regulated area. All interstate movement of regulated articles from Green and Sawyer Counties must be handled in accordance with [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 301.45 through 301.45-12](#). As required by § 301.45-2(b)(1), Wisconsin has established a parallel state quarantine. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of regulated articles from both counties must be handled in accordance with § 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 areas that would result from human-assisted movement of the pest. We appreciate the cooperative relationship with Wisconsin in the effort to limit the spread of spongy moth.

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

For more information about the Spongy Moth Program and Federal spongy moth regulations, please contact David Gruchot at David.J.Gruchot@usda.gov or (847) 699-2421.



Matthew A. Rhoads
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

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

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

APHIS Adds Green and Sawyer Counties, Wisconsin to the Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) Quarantined Area

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This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, [7 U.S.C. 7701 through 7786](#). Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act ([7 U.S.C. 7712\(a\)](#)) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, among other things, to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, article, or means of conveyance, 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. This Federal Order is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 301.45 through 301.45-12](#) (hereafter referred to as “the regulations”).

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 (*Lymantria dispar*, formerly known as gypsy moth¹) by adding Green and Sawyer Counties in Wisconsin. The moth populations in these counties have reached the threshold to trigger the quarantine expansion. Accordingly, the APHIS Administrator finds it necessary to quarantine these counties to prevent the spread of spongy moth. All interstate movement of regulated articles from Green and Sawyer Counties must be handled in accordance with the regulations. As required by § 301.45-2(b)(1), Wisconsin has established a parallel state quarantine. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of regulated articles from both counties must be handled in accordance with § 301.45-4 and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

7 CFR § 301.45-2(c) grants the APHIS Administrator or an inspector the ability to temporarily designate any area in any state as a quarantined area in accordance with the criteria in § 301.45-2(a). These areas will then be added to the list on the [APHIS Spongy Moth webpage](#). 7 CFR § 301.45-2(c) further requires written notification to the owner or person who possesses a newly quarantined area, which is the responsibility of the Federal and/or state regulatory personnel responsible for the Spongy Moth Program in the affected state.

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 human-assisted movement of the pest. We appreciate the cooperative relationship with Wisconsin in the effort to limit the spread of spongy moth. The full lists designating spongy moth-quarantined areas and regulated articles are published on the APHIS Spongy Moth webpage. APHIS will publish a notice of this change in the *Federal Register*.

For more details on the Spongy Moth Program and Federal spongy moth regulations, please contact David Gruchot at David.J.Gruchot@usda.gov or (847) 699-2421. For information on regulatory requirements for the movement of articles out of quarantined areas in Wisconsin, please contact Wisconsin State Plant Health Director, Christopher Deegan, at Christopher.Deegan@usda.gov or (608) 286-3608.