



Environmental Affairs and Community Development

Forest Sustainability Program Newsletter

Winter 2024



Photo: A female spongy moth, cream body with dark markings.

Spongy Moth Update

The Forest Sustainability staff has seen a major decrease in egg masses this fall, thanks to years of back to back successful treatments during spongy moth peak outbreak years. Our total number of egg masses found this year was 515. In the fall of 2022 last year, the number at the end of the season was 9,390, and in the fall of 2021 the number of egg masses was 38,708. These numbers highlight the impact treatment has been and the thorough search of the high density populations done throughout the county. After the outbreak over the last few years, we predict that these lower populations will continue as a trend and stabilize over the next couple of years.

Spongy Moth Treatment Map

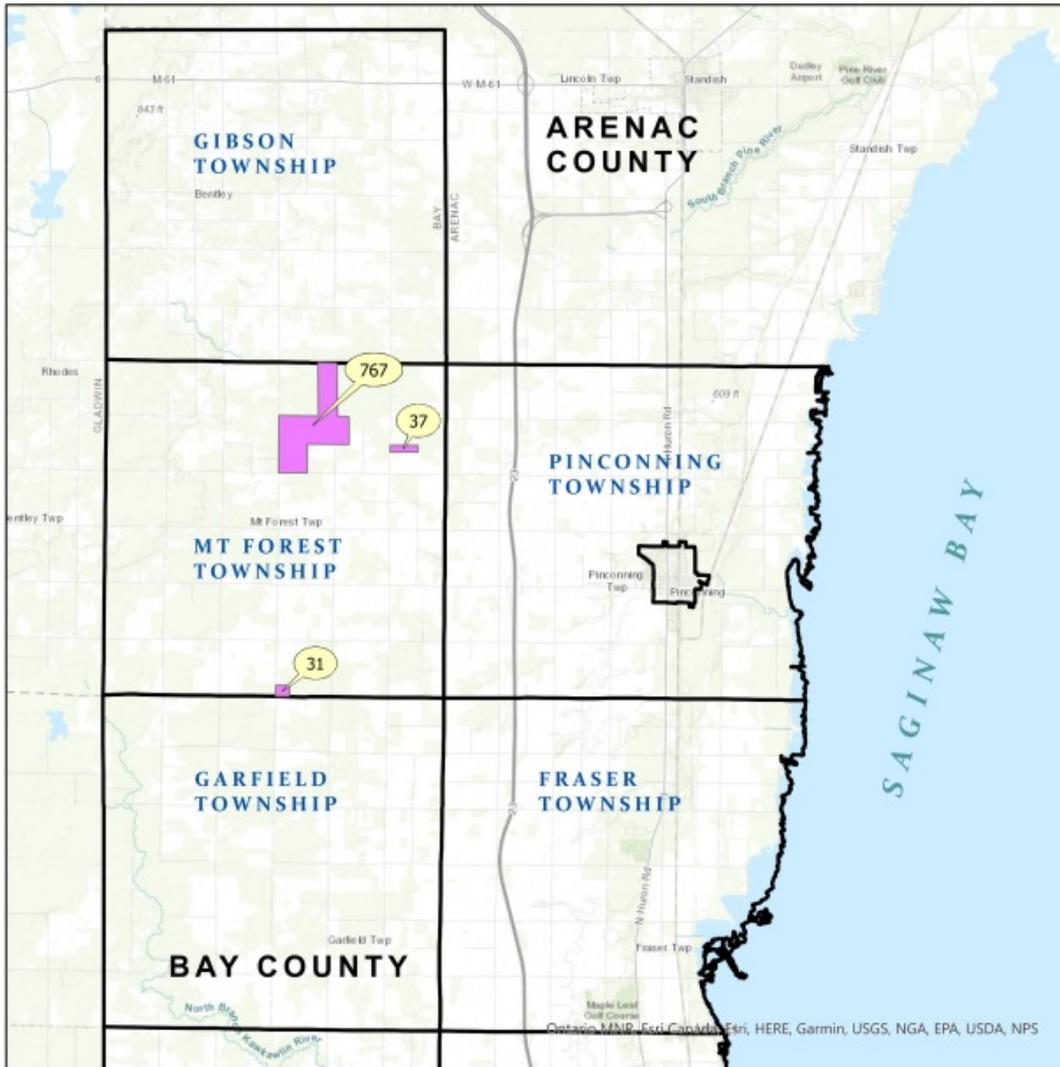
Here is a map of the areas that our program is treating this year. Because of the significant drop in egg masses, there is a lower amount of acres being treated this year. In total, there will be 835 acres treated in the spring of 2024 this year, and treatment is only located in Mt Forest township, where there was still slightly elevated population numbers in comparison with the rest of the county.



Bay County Environmental Affairs and Community Development: Forest Sustainability Program

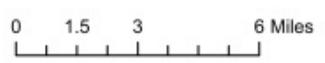


2024 Spongy Moth Aerial Spray Blocks



Aerial Spray Blocks 2024
Egg Masses Per Acre Density

- Aerial Spray Blocks
- County Boundaries



Total Number of Proposed Spray Blocks: 3 Blocks
Total Number of Acres to be Treated: 835 Acres
Largest Spray Block: 767 Acres
Smallest Spray Block: 31 Acres

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Box Tree Moth Alert



The Box Tree Moth is an invasive species native to the continent of Asia. It first began its spread in Europe in the early 2000's but made its way to Canada in 2018, and finally made its way to Michigan during the summer of 2022.

Boxwood is a very common and popular landscape shrub that is found throughout the state. Boxwood is not native, but it is a non-invasive species that landowners commonly chose because of its evergreen foliage, resistance to deer feeding, and resistance to diseases. A Boxwood Moth caterpillar population can kill a row of boxwood bushes within a matter of weeks. They can cause defoliation and girdling of the bush, which the boxwood cannot handle. The caterpillars are very hard to find on the bush, and they overwinter on them. They are difficult to get rid of because they are multi-generational during a season. Canada has recorded two generations during a summer, but in Europe they can see 3-4 individual generations, creating a cycle of feeding, pupating, and laying eggs.



Unfortunately at this time, there are no publications for recommendations on treatment or replacement species for the boxwood. Current university research is ongoing, and as soon as new information comes out, our program will be sure to share it with you.

Currently these counties are under quarantine (boxwood cannot be moved out of these counties): Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Wayne.



New Year

We wish all of our Bay County residents a refreshing and exciting new year! The Forest Sustainability Program looks forward to serving you in 2024.



What YOU Can Do

Educating yourself and others on safe trimming and travel practices will help control the spread of invasive pests or diseases.



Michigan DNR Don't Move
Firewood Information

CLICK HERE To Visit
DON'TMOVEFIREWOOD.ORG

*Please contact Jeremy Lowell, Bay
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