

Forestry Services Spongy Moth (Lymatria dispar dispar—LDD) Egg Mass Scraping

Have you noticed caterpillars or defoliation on your trees? Removing Spongy Moth egg masses can reduce caterpillars and help prevent defoliation.

Healthy egg masses are tan-coloured and can be found on tree trunks, bark and other hard surfaces. Egg masses are about 4 cm long and can contain up to 1000 eggs.

Egg masses should be removed from trees after June and prior to spring the following year.

How to remove spongy moth egg mass:

1. Use a scraper to carefully remove egg masses off tree trunks, branches, and outdoor equipment. Butter knives or paint scrapers are known to work well as tools for removal.



2. Place the collected egg masses in a bucket of water with several drops of liquid dishwashing detergent.



3. Leave the egg masses in the bucket of detergent and water mixture for 48 hours and then dispose.



For more information, visit ottawa.ca/spongymoth.