



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

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Commissioner

PEST: Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*)

BASIC PROFILE: SM larvae are voracious eaters and may feed on hundreds of deciduous and evergreen tree species but prefer oak and aspen. They can defoliate large stands of forested areas in a season. Adult male moths (brown) can move through natural spread about 15 miles annually. Female moths (white) of the common European variety do not fly. Male SM wingspan is ~25 – 40 mm (1 – 1 ½ inch).

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF and USDA conduct annual surveys for this pest using pheromone lure traps. Typically, traps are deployed from April through mid-September. Risk factors include presence of host plants – particularly in wooded areas near suburban neighborhoods and trees near well-traveled sites (campgrounds, highways, military bases, rest stops). LDAF also spot checks Christmas trees entering Louisiana for SM egg masses. SM can also move on nursery stock and LDAF places a few traps at nursery locations. USDA maintains a federal SM quarantine.

Egg Mass (~25mm, 1" size)



Larva (~37-50mm, 1.5" – 2" long, blue/red dots)



Adult Male Moths

Note feathered antennae, robust body and spots and banding on forewings. Color and size may vary.

