

How to Identify Spongy Moth from Other Pests

There are other forest caterpillar pests other than spongy moth (formally known as gypsy moth before 2022) that you may find in Snyder County. Many presume that what they see is the spongy moth in its larval stage. However, that may not be the case. Please look at the pre-2022 photos below.



FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR LARVA



**EASTERN TENT
CATERPILLAR**



GYPSY MOTH

Top: Forest tent caterpillar larva has whitish spots on its back that resemble "key holes," "foot prints" or "shoe prints."

Bottom Left: Eastern tent caterpillar larva has continuous whitish stripe on its back.

Bottom Right: Spongy (Gypsy) moth larva has five double rows of dark blue spots, followed by six double rows of brick red spots on its back.

In years past, the Snyder County Conservation District was asked to conduct egg mass surveys to determine the severity of infestations for potential state financial assisted spraying. However, no spray control program for private landowners exists currently. If you suspect spongy moth or have questions about these and other forest pests, contact DCNR's Bald Eagle State Forest District office near Laurelton at 570-922-3344.

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