

### **How to Identify Spongy Moth from Other Forest Pests**

There are various forest caterpillar pests that you may find in Snyder County. Many presume that it is the spongy moth in its larval stage (caterpillars, formally known as gypsy moth). 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 2024, there is no spray control assistance program for private landowners. 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. You can also go to DCNR's website for more information.

Note: DCNR (PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources) Spongy Moth webpage:  
<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsAndTrees/InsectsAndDiseases/SpongyMoth/Pages/default.aspx>

Version: 5-6-2024

