

# Spongy Moths

## Treatment begins in late April 2024

As part of the Ministry of Forests' **2024 Spongy Moth Eradication Program**, aerial spray treatments will begin between late-April to early-May to eradicate this invasive insect that can damage farms, forests, orchards and trees.

### Here is what you need to know:

1. *Treatments will be conducted with a small, low-flying airplane.*
2. *Foray 48B, a biological insecticide containing the active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (BTK), will be applied to the affected area. See the back of this card for more information about Foray 48B and the treatment boundary.*
3. *Treatments will take place in the early morning hours, usually beginning at first light and ending by 7:30 a.m.*
4. *Three treatments will be applied, seven to 10 days apart.*
5. *Lawn signs with treatment start dates will be posted around treatment boundaries 24 – 72 hours prior to each treatment.*
6. *To avoid contact with the spray, stay indoors during the aerial spray treatments and for up to 30 minutes following treatment to allow the droplets to settle.*

### Stay Informed

- Subscribe to the Spongy Moth News Page for email updates: [www.gov.bc.ca/spongy-news](http://www.gov.bc.ca/spongy-news)
- The timing of treatments will depend on weather conditions, so signing up for program notifications is recommended.
- Call the Spongy Moth Information Line: **1 866 917 5999**
- Visit [www.gov.bc.ca/spongymoth](http://www.gov.bc.ca/spongymoth)

### Spread the Word

This postcard has been sent to all residents in or near the treatment area. Please let your neighbours know about the treatment plan and how they can sign up for email notifications.

## THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS HAS PREPARED A PLAN TO PROTECT TREES AND SHRUBS FROM THE POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF THE INVASIVE SPONGY MOTH.

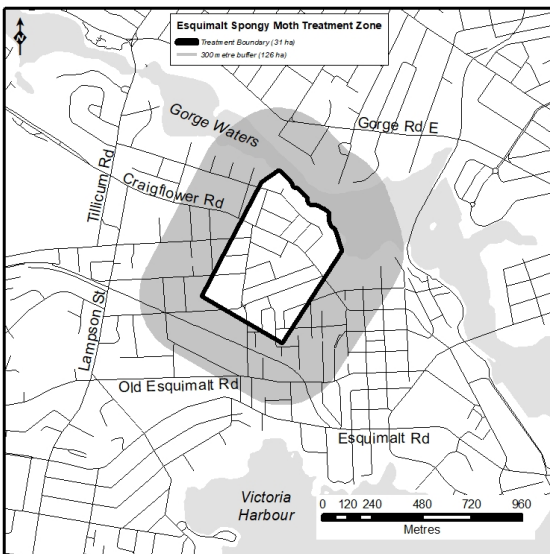
Data from the 2023 trapping season shows there is a spongy moth population in **Esquimalt** that could become established if not eradicated.

It is necessary to treat **31** hectares of residential, commercial and public lands to eradicate this invasive species.

The aerial treatments will use a small aircraft to apply Foray 48, active ingredient Btk. Btk occurs naturally in soil and is commonly used in organic agriculture. Foray 48B is approved for the control of spongy moth larvae in Canada. Foray 48B only impacts caterpillars that eat sprayed leaves and does not harm people, livestock, pets, birds, fish, amphibians, spiders, other insects or plants.

### Learn more

Visit us online to learn more about the threat spongy moths pose to British Columbia's forests, farms and orchards, and why eradication is important.



[www.gov.bc.ca/spongy-news](http://www.gov.bc.ca/spongy-news)

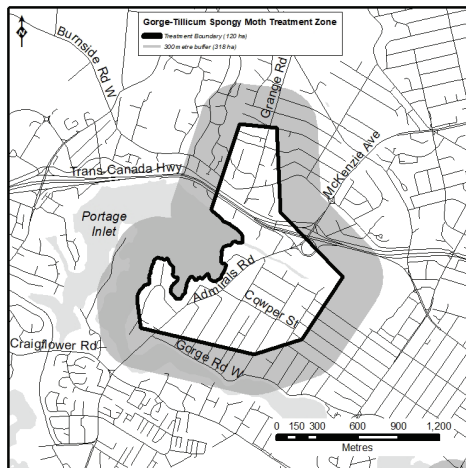


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## THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS HAS PREPARED A PLAN TO PROTECT TREES AND SHRUBS FROM THE POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF THE INVASIVE SPONGY MOTH.

Data from the 2023 trapping season shows there is a spongy moth population in Gorge-Tillicum that could become established if not eradicated. It is necessary to treat 120 hectares of residential, commercial and public lands to eradicate this invasive species.

The aerial treatments will use a small aircraft to apply Foray 48, active ingredient Btk. Btk occurs naturally in soil and is commonly used in organic agriculture. Foray 48B is approved for the control of spongy moth larvae in Canada. Foray 48B only impacts caterpillars that eat sprayed leaves and poses minimal risk to the health of people, livestock, pets, birds, fish, amphibians, spiders, other insects or plants.



### Learn more

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