

# Spongy Moths

(formerly gypsy moth) are invasive pests that have been found in your area.



To protect British Columbia's forests, farms, parks and neighbourhood trees from this invasive pest, the Ministry of Forests has developed a plan to safely treat residential and municipal areas. Please join us online or by phone to learn more about British Columbia's treatment plan.

**HOW:** Online via Microsoft Teams.  
Follow the 'Open House' link on our Spongy Moth News Page:  
[www.gov.bc.ca/spongy-news](http://www.gov.bc.ca/spongy-news)  
or by phone: 778-401-6289 (PIN: 878 539 693#)

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**WHO:** The B.C. Spongy Moth Technical Advisory Committee (Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canadian Forest Service, Invasive Species Council of B.C.) and other experts.

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## **THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS WILL TREAT FIVE AREAS WITH A BIOLOGICAL INSECTICIDE.**

The 2023 spongy moth trapping data revealed that spongy moths are establishing in Cranbrook, Kamloops, West Kelowna, Langley and Tsawwassen. Proven and safe treatments are required to eliminate the populations and prevent further spread.

Aircraft will be used to apply a biological insecticide, Foray 48B. The active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis var kurstaki* (Btk), which occurs naturally in soil and is commonly used in organic agriculture. This treatment is effective at eradicating spongy moths. It impacts only moth and butterfly caterpillars that eat sprayed leaves.

Repeat scientific study concludes the proposed treatment poses no threat to people. Btk does not impact livestock, pets, birds, fish, spiders, bees, ladybugs, or amphibians.

Specialists will provide program information and answer questions about the 2023 trapping season and the 2024 treatment areas during the virtual open house.

### **LEARN MORE**

Visit us online to learn more about the threat spongy moths pose to British Columbia's forests, farms, orchards and trees, and government's treatment plan. You can also subscribe to our website to receive regular updates.

[www.gov.bc.ca/spongymoth](http://www.gov.bc.ca/spongymoth)

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