

# West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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## **WVDA Lymantria dispar Program State Report – 2025**

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The objective of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) Lymantria dispar Program is to continue to minimize the adverse impact on forest resources, preserve aesthetic values, protect people from the annoyance and health problems that can occur when in contact with large numbers of Lymantria dispar caterpillars, and to slow the spread of Lymantria dispar by reducing populations on the advancing front.

### **QUARANTINE**

West Virginia currently has 44 regulated counties considered generally infested for Lymantria dispar. The WVDA regulates the movement of articles out of these counties into non-quarantined counties and states.

### **Lymantria dispar POPULATION**

Overall, West Virginia's Lymantria dispar population in 2025 has shown a decrease from 2024. In the Eastern Panhandle of the state there was a collapse in the spongy moth population. There have not been any properties qualified for 2026 although additional areas need to be surveyed. However, the STS trap catches have shown a very modest 1.1% increase from 2024.

### **Lymantria dispar SUPPRESSION - Cooperative State County Landowner (CSCL) Program**

The WVDA completed treatments on 17,143 acres in the Lymantria dispar Cooperative State County Landowner (CSCL) Suppression Program. Helicopter Applicators Inc. of Gettysburg, PA was the aerial contractor for the WVDA – CSCL Program. Mimic treatments were conducted on 16,143 acres. BTK treatments were conducted on 1,000 acres. No cost share dollars were provided for the 2025 program and landowners paid the total treatment cost. Mimic was applied at 5 fluid ounces per acre in a total volume of 0.75 gallon per acre and Foray 48B was applied at 1/2 of a gallon per acre.

### **Lymantria dispar DEFOLIATION**

ForWarn III (a vegetation change recognition and tracking system) and visual ground observation was used to map Spongy Moth defoliation in 2025. Additionally, we used Google Earth Engine HIForm BMP which was developed by the Southern Research Station of USDA Forest. A total of 68,839 acres were defoliated in the counties of Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, and Morgan.

### **Lymantria dispar STS (Insecticide Treatments)**

There were no larval insecticide treatments in the West Virginia STS area in 2025.

### **STS MATING DISRUPTION APPLICATION (Pheromone Flakes)**

There were no mating disruption treatments in the West Virginia STS area in 2025.

**STS SLOW THE SPREAD TRAPPING PROGRAM**

In West Virginia, the Action Area covered approximately 3,787,594 acres, while the 5k and 8k Monitoring Areas covered 5,830,972 acres. The 2k and 3k base-grids in the Action Area were placed using Delta traps. Milk carton traps were used within the 5k and 8k Monitoring Areas. A total of 3233 Delta traps were used in the STS Action Area, and 623 Milk Carton traps were used in the Monitoring Areas. West Virginia had 3 delimit trapping areas and one post treatment evaluation grid during the trapping year of 2025. Two were 1k grids using 53 delta traps and 77 milk carton traps. Two were 500-meter grids using 18 Milk Carton traps. 6 Regulatory sites were placed using 4 Delta and two Milk Carton traps.

**WEST VIRGINIA 2025 *Lymantria dispar* PROGRAM AREAS**

