

# History of the Spongy Moth in Massachusetts



*Early control efforts were labor intensive. It was believed that the best way to control the moth was by destroying the eggs: men would be hired to climb trees and scrape egg masses or paint them with creosote. 1896.*



1869  
Spongy moth accidentally introduced by Professor Leopold Trouvelot in Medford, MA.



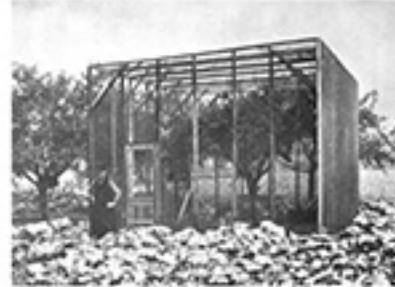
*Early outbreaks in Medford and surrounding towns caused total defoliation to stands. 1905.*

1889  
First major outbreak event. State Board of Agriculture headed with eradication program that continued until 1900.



*Protective belts were cut around badly infested areas in an attempt to contain the movement of the moth. Control in these areas included the spraying of pesticides and burning. 1909.*

1905  
Control efforts resumed with the USDA bureau of Entomology joining the state.



1911  
Spongy moths are found in every city and town in Massachusetts.



A biological control project, run from 1905-1914, imported tens of thousands of spongy moth caterpillars and pupae infected by parasites from Europe, Japan, and Russia. Collected specimens were reared in laboratories and outdoor enclosures in Massachusetts. 1906.

1936  
Between 1934 and 1935, over 2 million acres were aerially sprayed with DDT in Plymouth, Norfolk, Middlesex, and Worcester Counties.



1946  
DDT is used on spongy moth for the first time.



*Four Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were established for the sole purpose of combating the spongy moth. 1935.*

1961  
Largest defoliation event in Massachusetts' history.



*Despite initial introduction in 1910 and subsequent introduction in the early 1960s, it was not until 1989 that *E. maimaiaga* is recovered in the wild causing mortality.*

1981  
The population boom in 2006 caused significant damage statewide. Severe defoliation was visible during an aerial survey along coastal regions of Plymouth County. 2006.



2016