

spongy moth

WISCONSIN COOPERATIVE
SPONGY MOTH PROGRAM

SPLAT
treatment

type of product

The most common pheromone-based mating disruptor applied in Wisconsin is SPLAT. It consists of small, waxy droplets infused with female spongy moth pheromone. Both synthetic and organic formulations of SPLAT are used.

how it works

When an area is treated with SPLAT, the scent of the female moth floods the area and confuses male spongy moths so they cannot find females. This is effective because the spongy moths are at the end of their life cycle and they die without reproducing. SPLAT only carries the scent and prevents reproduction.

what it looks like

SPLAT is a relatively new product that serves as an alternative delivery system for female spongy moth pheromone. SPLAT is made out of the pheromone mixed with a waxy matrix to help it stick to the leaves. After applied, it looks like small white droplets that can be washed off skin or surfaces with soap and water.

application method and timing

SPLAT is applied aerially by low-flying applicator planes. Seven ounces of the product are used per acre, which amounts to about six grams of pheromone per acre. Applications start in southern Wisconsin with one application between late June and late July, just before moths emerge from cocoons.

why we use SPLAT

- The pheromone is detectable only to spongy moths; no other species are impacted;
- Can be used where endangered or threatened species of butterflies and moths are feeding during spray season;
- Only effective in areas with low spongy moth populations.

The current year's spray program information, including maps of proposed spray sites, will be available online starting in early March at the website listed below or by emailing spngymoth@wisconsin.gov.

1-800-642-MOTH (6684) | spongymoth.wi.gov

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION