

## Pests and Diseases Carried on Firewood

Spongy moth (formerly known as gypsy moth), emerald ash borer and oak wilt are currently found in Wisconsin, but not everywhere in the state. DATCP's goal is to slow the spread of these pests. You can help by not moving firewood. There are other pests and diseases not present in Wisconsin yet. DATCP's goal is to keep them out. There may also be unknown pests and diseases that could be carried on firewood. **Below is a list of pests and diseases that can be carried on firewood.**

### Pests already in Wisconsin – slow the spread



**Spongy moth (formerly gypsy moth):** Spongy moth caterpillars have a large appetite, especially for oak, but they will also feed on over 300 species of trees and shrubs. Hardwood trees may die if they lose their leaves two or more years in a row.

Conifers may die after a single year of defoliation. Spongy moth is widespread in the eastern 2/3 of Wisconsin. Females mate and lay an egg mass containing up to 1,000 eggs each before dying. The egg masses are 1 - 2 inches long, spongy, velvety and tan.



**Emerald ash borer (EAB):** EAB larvae feed under the bark of ash trees, eventually girdling and killing the tree. Emerald-green adults emerge by making D-shaped holes in the bark. They are most prevalent in southern Wisconsin.



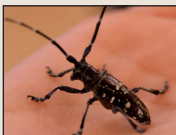
**Oak wilt:** Northern red oaks, black oaks, and pin oaks are particularly susceptible to this fatal fungal disease. The fungus is carried by sap-feeding beetles. It is well-established in southern Wisconsin, but not yet detected in many

northern forests or the Door County peninsula.

### Pests currently not found in Wisconsin - monitor



**Spotted lanternfly:** This sap-feeder has established itself in the eastern U.S. It feeds on walnut, tree-of-heaven, grape vines, hops, maple and fruit trees. The one to two inch long egg masses are grey and resemble putty.



**Asian longhorned beetle (ALB):** These large black and white beetles have extremely long antennae. The larvae tunnel deep into the heartwood, disrupting the flow of water and nutrients and killing the tree. Adults emerge through perfectly

round, pencil-sized holes. ALB resembles a native beetle called the white-spotted sawyer, but ALB is shinier and has bluish legs.



**Mountain pine beetle:** A beetle about the size of a grain of rice that lives under the bark, this insect has killed entire mountainsides of trees in the West. It carries a fungus and gathers huge numbers of beetles to overwhelm tree defenses,

enabling it to kill healthy trees. It could kill white, red, and jack pine in Wisconsin.

## For more information

Current list of pests and diseases DATCP monitors:

<https://plantpests.wi.gov>

Certified firewood and movement rules in Wisconsin:

<https://firewood.wi.gov>

Call: (715) 891-8158

Email: [timothy.allen@wi.gov](mailto:timothy.allen@wi.gov)

Nationwide campaign:

<https://www.dontmovefirewood.org>

## To report a suspected pest new to Wisconsin:

Call: (866) 440-7523

Email: [datcppesthotline@wi.gov](mailto:datcppesthotline@wi.gov)



**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,  
Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Division of Agricultural Resource Management  
Bureau of Plant Industry  
<https://datcp.wi.gov>

Photo credits: Spongy moth - USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org; emerald ash borer - Debbie Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org; Oak wilt - Lynn Bergen, Bugwood; mountain pine beetle - Ron Long, Simon Fraser University, Bugwood.org; spotted lanternfly - Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org; Asian longhorned beetle - Timothy Boyle - WI DATCP

# Help Protect Wisconsin Trees Don't Move Firewood



**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,  
Trade and Consumer Protection**

# NO CAMPING TRIP OR WEEKEND AT THE CABIN IS COMPLETE WITHOUT A CAMPFIRE.

But firewood can carry harmful pests and diseases to new areas. If you live in parts of Wisconsin where spongy moth (formerly gypsy moth) caterpillars sometimes eat all the leaves from trees in spring, or where emerald ash borer has left dead trees lining roadways, you know how much damage invasive pests can cause. Here are some tips to help protect trees - whether it is from pests we want to slow down or keep out of the state entirely.

## Use Certified Firewood

Firewood can be labeled as certified by either the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). DATCP-certified firewood is state approved and can travel anywhere in the state. USDA-certified firewood is federally approved and can travel to nearly every state. Both have been heat-treated or processed to reduce the risk of carrying pests and diseases. Look for one of the labels shown here.



## Parks, Forests, Tribal Lands, and Campground Rules:

- Wisconsin state parks and state forests allow only firewood that has been cut within 10 miles, or certified firewood. Most state parks have legal firewood available for sale.
- Chequamegon National Forest and other federal lands allow only firewood that has been cut within 25 miles, or certified firewood.
- Tribal lands, private campgrounds, and town or county campgrounds may have their own requirements. Check before you leave home.

**When you pack up for that trip, keep these things in mind:**

## DO:

- Buy firewood near your destination.
- Check <http://firewoodscout.org> to find local vendors.
- Buy certified firewood with a DATCP or USDA label.
- Burn all firewood at your destination.

## DON'T:

- Bring uncertified firewood from home.
- Move uncertified firewood long distances.
- Bring any leftover firewood back home, especially from other states.

## Follow Quarantine Rules

Quarantines restrict the movement of uncertified firewood that can carry harmful pests into and within the state. For example, Wisconsin's spongy moth (formerly known as gypsy moth) quarantine prohibits moving firewood within Wisconsin from counties where it is already established to western counties where it is not. Other quarantines prevent moving firewood into Wisconsin. For example, quarantines restrict moving firewood from places where Asian longhorned beetle and mountain pine beetle have been found. State or federal government, or Native American tribes may establish and enforce quarantines. Moving regulated items out of quarantine areas could result in financial penalties of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to six months.