

You can help stop harmful pests and diseases in their tracks

Look out for spongy moth because they could affect our business, sector, economy, and way of life, whether on a farm, orchard, forest, port, or in your own backyard.

Spongy moth caterpillars can strip the leaves from entire trees, devastating stands of trees.

Female spongy moths lay their eggs on all kinds of surfaces like tree trunks, rocks, buildings, fences, vehicles, shipping containers, and ships. Imported vehicles and ships are the most likely way for the egg masses to arrive in New Zealand.

In 2003, we found the moth in Hamilton. It was declared eradicated in 2005.

Biosecurity New Zealand has a surveillance network monitoring for this moth near our borders.

