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Christmas Tree and Nursery Spongy Moth Treatment Options

Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) is an invasive insect that can cause significant damage to a wide range of tree species. While conifers and Christmas trees are not preferred feeding sites and normally only incur minor needle defoliation, Christmas trees are suitable for spongy moth egg laying and could contribute to the spread of spongy moth. To prevent the spread of spongy moth to non-infected areas, a federal quarantine was created. To move trees out of the quarantine area (www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/spongy-moth/spongy-moth-quarantine-map), which includes all counties in Michigan, tree growers must comply with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) compliance program.

The MDARD compliance program for shipping Christmas trees outside of the quarantine area requires: 1) a mandatory pesticide application to ensure proper spongy moth control, and 2) an MDARD inspection of the trees. The following table lists insecticide active ingredients that have been approved as acceptable regulatory treatments to control spongy moth on Christmas trees. Please note that if you also dig nursery stock out the field for treatment, the pesticide label must allow nursery use (see the 4th column of the table below).

Pesticide efficacy is dependent on timing of the treatment, frequently called a "spray window" or the time when the target insect pest is susceptible to a pesticide application. Applicators should refer to guidance on proper timing of spongy moth pesticide applications available through MSU Extension (www.canr.msu.edu/christmas_trees) or MSU Enviroweather (enviroweather.msu.edu).

Active Ingredient	Product Name	EPA Registration Number	Nursery Use
Diflubenzuron	Dimilin 25W	70506-526	Y
Tebufenozide	Confirm 2F Fungicide	8033-111-10163	N
Tebufenozide	Mimic 2LV Insecticide	8033-113-73049	Y
Carbaryl	Drexel Carbaryl 4L	19713-49	N
Carbaryl	Carbaryl 4L Insecticide	34704-447	N
Carbaryl	Sevin SL Carbaryl Insecticide	432-1227	N
Carbaryl	Lesco Sevin Brand SL Carbaryl Insecticide #082007	432-1227-10404	N
Carbaryl	Sevin XLR Plus	61842-37	Y (Water Treatment)
Bifenthrin	Onyxpro Insecticide	101563-375	Y

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Active Ingredient	Product Name	EPA Registration Number	Nursery Use
Bifenthrin	Aceto Bifenthrin 2 EC	2749-556	N
Bifenthrin	Talstar Nursery Granular Insecticide	279-3130	Y
Bifenthrin	Onyxpro Insecticide	279-4269	Y
Bifenthrin	Sniper Insecticide /Miticide	34704-858	N
Bifenthrin	Sniper Helios	34704-858	N
Bifenthrin	Signature Bifenthrin	34704-858	N
Bifenthrin	Bifen GN 2EC Select	42750-394-89442	Y
Bifenthrin	Quali-Pro Bifenthrin Golf & Nursery 7.9F	53883-366	Y
Bifenthrin	Discipline 2EC	5481-517	N
Bifenthrin	Wisdom Nursery Granular Insecticide	5481-522	Y
Bifenthrin	Xpedient Plus V	5481-609	N
Bifenthrin	Wisdom G L/N	5481-683	Y
Bifenthrin	Omni Brand Bifenthrin 2EC	5905-626	Y
Bifenthrin	Fanfare ES	66222-236	N
Bifenthrin	Fanfare EC	66222-261	N
Bifenthrin	UP-Star SC Lawn and Nursery Insecticide/Miticide	70506-23	Y
Bifenthrin	Bifenture EC Agricultural Insecticide	70506-57	N
Bifenthrin	Bifenture EC	70506-57	N
Bifenthrin	Bifen 2 AG Gold	83222-1	Y
Bifenthrin	Bi-Dash 2E	83529-48	N
Bifenthrin	Bifenthrin 2E	85678-67	Y
Bifenthrin	Willowood Bifenthrin 2EC	87290-54	N
Bifenthrin	Bifender FC Insecticide	89118-2	Y
Bifenthrin	Reveal	89168-19-89391	Y
Bifenthrin	Reveal Endurx	89168-19-89391	Y
Bifenthrin	Batallion 2 EC	91234-104	Y

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Active Ingredient	Product Name	EPA Registration Number	Nursery Use
Bifenthrin	Tigris Bifen 2 EC	92647-17	Y
Bifenthrin	Tigris Bifenthrin LFC	92647-27	Y
Bifenthrin	Bifen 2EC Select	92647-32	N
Bifenthrin	GCS Bifenthrin 2EC	94730-8	Y
Methoxyfenozide	Invertid 2F	34704-1107	Y
Methoxyfenozide	Invicar 2SC	83100-65	N
Methoxyfenozide	Inspirato 2F	91234-62	Y
Methoxyfenozide	Vexer Insecticide	91234-62-89391	Y
Methoxyfenozide	Acora Insecticide	91234-62-92735	Y
Phosmet	Imidan 70-W Agricultural Insecticide	10163-169	N
Spinosad	Entrust	62719-282	Y
Spinosad	Lumiverd	62719-282	Y
Spinosad	Conserve SC Turf and Ornamental Insect Control	62719-291	Y
Spinosad	Conserve SC Turf and Ornamental	62719-291	Y
Spinosad	Spintor 2SC Naturalyte Insect Control	62719-294	N
Spinosad	Success Optim Naturalyte Insect Control	62719-523	N
Spinosad	Blackhawk Naturalyte Insect Control	62719-523	N
Spinosad	Matchpoint Insecticide	62719-523	N
Spinosad	Seduce Insect Bait	67702-25-70051	Y
Spinosad	Simpai	91234-279	N
Spinosad	Falcondor SC	91234-279	N
Acephate	Acephate 90 WDG Insecticide	34704-1051	N
Acephate	Acephate 90 WSP Insecticide	34704-862	Y
Acephate	Orthene Turf Tree and Ornamental WSP Insecticide	5481-8971	Y
Acephate	Acephate 90 Prill Agricultural	66222-123	Y

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Active Ingredient	Product Name	EPA Registration Number	Nursery Use
Acephate	Acenthrin Insecticide	70506-339	Y
Acephate	Acephate 97UP Insecticide	70506-8	Y
Acephate	Bracket 97 Insecticide	70506-8-1381	Y
Acephate	ACE-Jet	74578-2	N
Acephate	Tide Acephate 90 WDG	84229-7	Y
Acephate	Acephate 90 Prill Select	89442-40	Y
Acephate	Avatar PLX Insecticide	94396-29	Y
Cyfluthrin	Baythroid XL	264-840, SLN. No. MI-060003	N

Using an insecticide not on the list or outside of the effective spray window for regulatory treatment will result in denial of certification.

All applications must be applied at the maximum labeled rate. The product must be a registered pesticide in Michigan. MDARD’s Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division publishes a list of registered pesticides in Michigan. See the link for “Pesticides Registered in Michigan” at www.michigan.gov/pestreg.

DISCLAIMER: When using any pesticide, follow the pesticide label for directions, application rates, methods, pollinator protection guidelines, and appropriate protective equipment. Confirm that the application site is on the label prior to use (a tool for this can be found at www.npirs.org/state/). Remember, the label is the law. See if you are required to become a certified applicator at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/-/media/Project/Websites/mdard/documents/pesticide-plant-pest/pesticide/Pesticide-Application-Flowchart.pdf>.

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