

The Budworm Tracker Program

You or someone you know could play an important part in monitoring spruce budworm in Maine

The Budworm Tracker Program, a component of the [Healthy Forest Partnership](http://www.healthyforestpartnership.ca), is looking for volunteers to join its Budworm Tracker citizen science program in Northern Maine (www.healthyforestpartnership.ca, www.budwormtracker.ca).

The Budworm Tracker Program is part of a large scientific initiative aimed at better understanding how spruce budworm populations rise and spread. The program was launched in 2015 to help scientists increase their understanding of the spruce budworm by having citizens assist with the collecting and sharing of scientific data.



Volunteers range from families who are interested in science and forestry, to industry and forestry stakeholders. Knowledge of forestry or insects is not required. As citizen scientists, they are asked to trap and collect spruce budworm moths during the moth flight season, between June and August, and send the data back to the research team. The traps are supplied for free and come with simple instructions. A short [video](#) also describes the program. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science/video/18033>

In Maine, the research team is particularly interested in recruiting volunteers in locations as far south as Bangor, north to the border with Québec and New Brunswick. Volunteers would be asked to check their traps once per week or even better, more than once per week, June through August.

Individuals living or working in these areas who are interested in becoming a citizen scientist can sign up by visiting www.budwormtracker.ca or call:

Emily Owens, Biologist
Program Coordinator
Forest Protection Limited
(506) 452-3507



More Details (Complete protocol is available at www.budwormtracker.ca under 'BT Info Guides'):

- The trap location should be easy to access, about 15 feet into the treeline and away from lights left on overnight. The trap should be attached to the branch of a fir or spruce tree at about eye-level.
- Collections are requested on one of two schedules.
 - 3 checks per week, such as Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
 - Once a week, (preferably the same day each week)
- When moths are collected they are put into a labeled paper bag, then stored in the freezer. Trackers can count them before storage, but it's not mandatory.
- Data will be recorded with paper and pen at all sites, with the option of also reporting via the budworm tracker website or through the budworm tracker smart phone application
- At the end of the season, samples will be turned in to the budworm tracker team for identification, counting and analysis. All participants will get information about the season's results the following year in March.



For more information about spruce budworm in Maine visit www.sprucebudwormmaine.org.