

What's Eating My Tree?

Fall Webworm



If the leaves of your tree are being consumed, it is likely that the larval form of a moth is the culprit. In Southwest Ohio there are five common species: Bagworm, Eastern Tent Caterpillar, Fall Webworm, Forest Tent Caterpillar, and Gypsy Moth.

Life Cycle:

Unlike most caterpillars, the fall webworm damage doesn't appear until late summer

or early autumn. Adult webworms appear mostly from May to July and deposit their hair covered egg masses on the underside of leaves. Newly hatched larvae im-

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ward the end of the growing season, their actual damage to the tree is rather minimal, but the large webs encasing denuded twigs and leaves are unsightly.

Hosts:

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Control:

For small outbreaks, pruning and burning the infested twigs is the most effective control. On larger outbreaks, spraying with, *Bacillus thuringiensis* Carbaryl, or Diazinon is effective.

