

Eastern Tent Caterpillars Hatching Here

HARRISBURG — Taking their cue from spring's sudden emergence, Eastern tent caterpillars have lost no time in making their appearance, Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry State Department of Agriculture, said today.

Egg masses that were laid by the mature females last June are now hatching into tiny worms in this area. Emergence of the caterpillars in other areas can be expected, Dr. Guyton states, as the weather becomes warmer.

Apple plum and wild cherry trees are favorite food plants of the caterpillars, and favorite nesting places, although they infest also other plants, including ornamentals and shrubs.

Where the egg clusters have not yet hatched they can be recognized by their varnish-like coating over the entire mass. Unless controlled, the insects defoliate trees and form nests that present an unsightly appearance.

Homeowners wishing to stop defoliation of valuable ornamentals are advised to remove and burn the egg nests or the tents that start to appear as the caterpillars hatch.

On small plantings the eggs or worms can be destroyed easily by stripping them off branches with the hands, preferably on cool, wet days when the caterpillars are in their nests.

Burning out the nest may result in damage to the tree. For control with insecticide, one application of a DDT spray (4 tablespoons of 50 per cent wettable DDT powder to one gallon of water) on infested plants is recommended. Dr. Guyton said one application will give protection for an entire season. Malathion 25 per cent wettable powder at the rate of 2 tablespoons to a gallon of water may also be used. Spraying should be done as soon as the first small tents appear.

Dr. Guyton urges extreme care in handling and applying these poisons. Follow label directions fully and carefully.

Dish Garden

Usually a dish garden stays attractive for a long time, and it needs no extra care. Proper light, water, temperature, and fertilizer will keep the plants healthy, remind Penn State extension floriculture specialists. It doesn't always mean that plants are starving if they get yellow or stop growing. They may be getting too much or too little light, water, or heat. Be sure these factors of growth are right before you fertilize the plants.

Demonstrations Presented At Guernsey 4-H

Fitting and showing demonstrations were presented by the 1962 champions at the Wednesday night meeting of the county 4-H Guernsey club on the farm of Elmer Lapp, Kinzer R1.

Elaine Stoltzfus, last year's champion fitter gave points on grooming an animal for show while Donald Ankrum (the 1962 reserve champion showman, pointed out some principles of handling an animal in the ring.

New Members were inducted into the club, but applications are still being accepted.

The next meeting on May 8 will be in honor of the parents of club members. A speaker on parliamentary procedure will be a feature of the meeting to be held in the agriculture room of the Solanco High School.

Roy Breneman, club president was in charge of the meeting.

4-H WILDLIFE CLUB TO RE-ORGANIZE

The 4-H Wildlife Club will meet at the home of Annette G. Long, Erb's Quarry Road, Lititz, R. D. No. 3, on April 17th, at 7:30 p.m. Officers will be elected and this year's Wildlife project program will be planned.

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