

# Habits and Control of Tent Caterpillar

The presence of tent caterpillars is usually recognized by their conspicuous nests or tents on their favorite host, wild cherry trees.

They also infest various flowering shrubs, shade, fruit, and forest trees.

The silky tents spun by the caterpillars make yard trees unsightly, and the caterpillars are annoying when searching for food or a suitable place to spin their cocoons.

Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural agent, said the tent caterpillar is common but isn't a major problem for farmers and it's "often not practical for the farmer to control" the pest.

The tent caterpillar can do

major damage to ornamentals and shrubs, however, and it's often worthwhile for the homeowner to spray, he said.

The caterpillar can be controlled by spraying, Smith noted.

The Eastern tent caterpillar overwinters as eggs in a collar-like cluster containing 100 to 300 eggs which encircle small branches.

Hatching occurs as early as April 1 in southern counties and continues into late April in northern Pennsylvania.

The gregarious larvae upon emerging construct their tents in nearby branch crotches. These tents are made of silken layers and serve as protection for larvae.

The caterpillars feed for six to eight weeks. When mature, they are about two inches long, black, rather hairy, with a white stripe down the back and white and blue markings on the sides.

The mature caterpillars have a habit of migrating to suitably protected areas to spin their silken tan-colored cocoons. It is the migrating caterpillars that are most annoying to the homeowner.

Within the cocoon the larva transforms into a resting stage called the pupa. The pupal stage lasts about three weeks.

During June and July the reddish-brown moth with two oblique, white bands on the forewings emerge and deposit eggs in bands around small twigs.

There is only one generation each year.

Eastern tent caterpillars are easily controlled when young; the older larvae are more difficult to control.

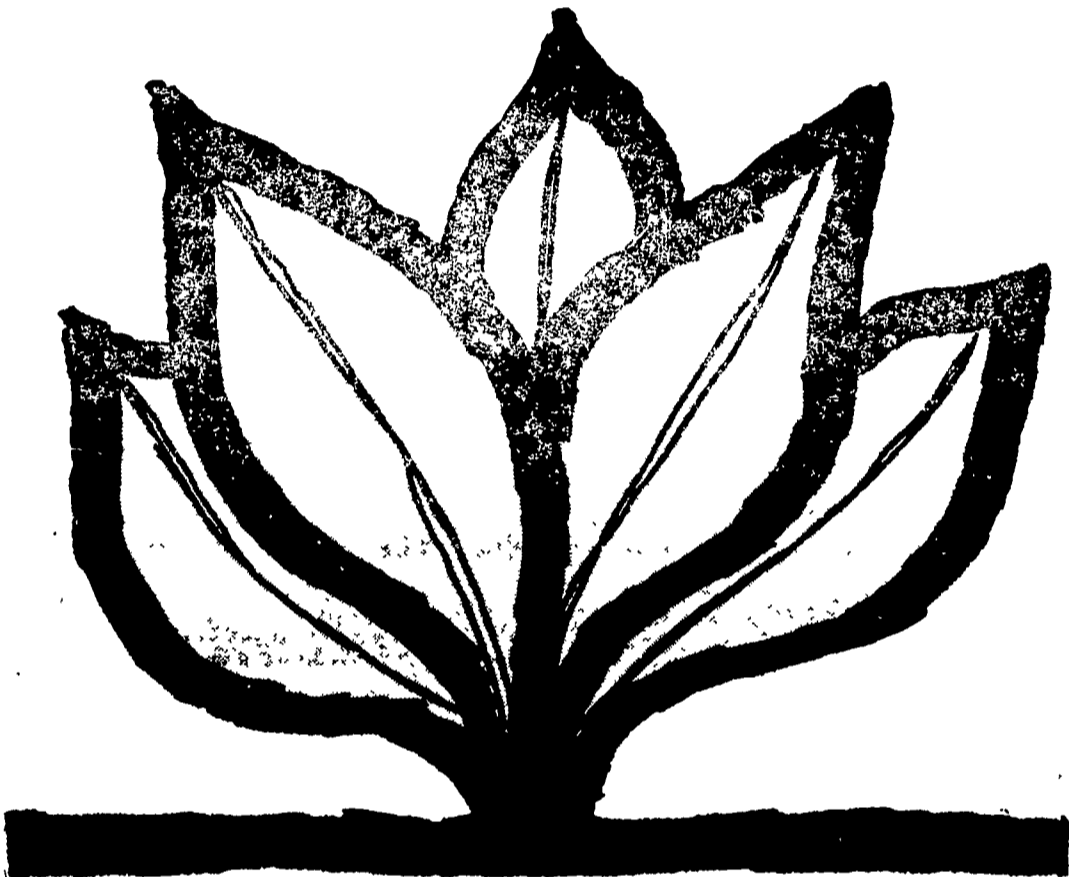
Sprays containing either Carbaryl (Sevin) 50 per cent wettable powder, two tablespoons per gallon, or malathion 57 per cent liquid, 1 tablespoon per gallon of water should be applied when the tents are first

The entire tree need not be sprayed, but nests and surrounding branches should be

thoroughly covered with spray material.

If control measures are started when larvae are half grown, two spray applications may be needed one week apart.

Follow all safety precautions recommended on label when using pesticides. Store pesticides and dispose of empty containers so that they are not a hazard to man or animal and are inaccessible to children. Do not contaminate streams, ponds, water sources, or endanger wildlife. Protect your environment.



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## Pork Industry Film Reported Big Success

"This film is in heavy demand. We are not able to accommodate all the requests."

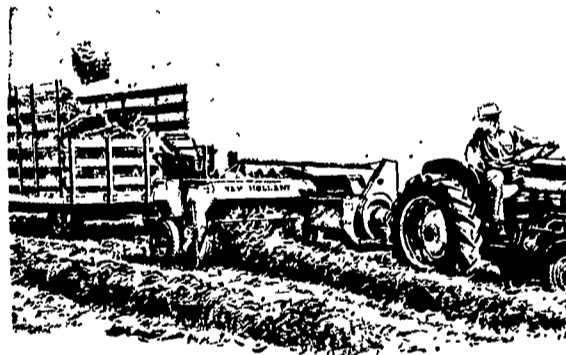
That comment was attached to the most recent report on distribution of the pork industry's film "New Facts About Pork." The report showed there had been 742 showings of the movie since free loan distribution began on a commercial basis in mid-February.

One hundred prints of the 17-minute full color film — purchased by the Pork Industry Committee of the National Live Stock and Meat Board earlier this year — are being distributed by Modern Talking Picture Service on a free-loan basis to colleges and high schools and medical and health groups. The viewing audience has totaled over 23,500.

"But this is just part of the story," said John Lane, Pork Industry Committee Secretary. "Besides the free-loan distrib-

ution of these 100 prints, there are 120 prints which have been sold directly, primarily to pork producer and other livestock and meat industry organizations and firms. These, of course, are also being shown to a variety of consumer audiences and to professionals in the fields of teaching and medicine."

The movie was produced within the past year as a joint effort of the National Pork Producers Council, the Meat Board and the American Meat Institute. Prints may be purchased — at \$85 per print — from the Pork Industry Committee of the Board, 36 South Wabash, Chicago, Ill. 60603. Home Economics teachers, dietitians and medical groups may book this film on a free loan basis by contacting Modern Talking Pictures Service, Inc., 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036.



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