

Tent caterpillars strip trees of foilage

NEWARK, Del. — Many insect pests escape easy notice because of their small size or secretive habits. Not so for the tent caterpillar, whose huge, silken webs are an unwelcome sign of spring and an annual eyesore.

Tent caterpillars are large — about two inches long when mature. They have a black body with rather long hairs, blue and

white side markings and prominent white stripe down the back. Don't confuse them with the notorious gypsy moth caterpillar — a non-web spinner that goes about its dirty work in a less visible fashion, at least until later in the season when its damage starts to appear.

In the spring as trees leaf out,

colonies of tent caterpillars construct their familiar "tents" or nests in the forks of trees growing along roadsides, in brushy pastures, and in other waste places. They sometimes also infest trees in home plantings.

Tent caterpillars just love wild cherries. But they may also attack apple, pear, hawthorn, and various other fruiting trees, as well as

shade and ornamental trees.

Infested trees are sometimes completely stripped of their foliage by the hungry pests. Though weakened, these trees are seldom killed. The caterpillars further annoy people when they crawl about in search of more food or a place to spin their cocoons.

You can control tent caterpillars in several ways, says Tatnall. Their nests can be torn open and the larvae scattered and crushed. Sometimes nests in the outer branches can be pruned out and burned. But DON'T attempt to burn the nests while they're still in the tree.

An insecticide spray is effective if you apply it promptly to the nests and surrounding foliage when the webs first appear. If possible, spray in the early morning or late afternoon when the larvae are in the nests. Suggested controls include Orthene, Malathion and Sevin. Some of these materials are toxic to bees, so follow label directions for their protection.

You can help avoid future trouble by removing nearby unwanted wild cherry trees and by destroying the dark, shny egg masses of the caterpillar found overwintering on the twigs of host trees.

Longhorn sale totals \$216,160

ELKO, Nev. — The increasing popularity of the Texas Longhorn is taking hold as over 300 buyers attended the fourth Annual Western America Texas Longhorn sale recently in Elko, Nev. and watched the grand champion senior cow sell for \$10,600.

Top buyer Joe Brisbois, Fruitland, Wash., purchased Miss Wildlife 73, consigned by Bob

Garrett, Deeth, Nev. for the record purchase price at the sale. Eighty lots of registered Texas Longhorns and 20 lots of roping steers were moved through the arena.

The Texas Longhorn, once almost extinct, is making a strong comeback in the cattle industry as displayed by this remarkable sale. They carry exemplary traits of high disease resistance, high

browse utilization, longevity-up to 20 and 25 years of a productive life, high fertility, and easy calving.

This year's sale totaled an all time high for the Western America Texas Longhorn Association of \$216,160. The sale averages were as follows: 11 lots of heifers averaged \$2,409, 9 lots of bred cows averaged \$3,589, 3 lots of open cows averaged \$2,100, 31 lots of cow and calf pairs averaged \$3,023, 9 lots of yearling bulls averaged \$1,478, and 15 lots of senior bulls averaged \$1,940. The roping steers averaged \$460.

Franklin tour on July 7

CHAMBERSBURG — The Franklin County Conservation District will be conducting its annual conservation tour on July 7.

The tour group will travel to the Edenville area to survey Gypsy Moth damage. Phil Wert, Service Forester with the DER Bureau of Forestry, will be pointing out problem areas.

The tour also includes the Schoenberg farm at 14596 Clover Hill Road, Shippensburg, to see the barn flushing system.

A third stop will be at Paul Bert's farm at 8543 McClays Mill Road,

Newburg. Featured will be a cannery tour and a look at the terrace system.

The July 7 tour will be leaving, by bus, from the Norland Shopping Center parking lot at 9 a.m. and return by 3 p.m. Cost for the tour will be \$1.00 per person.

Also planned is a lunch stop. Lunch will be "dutch treat".

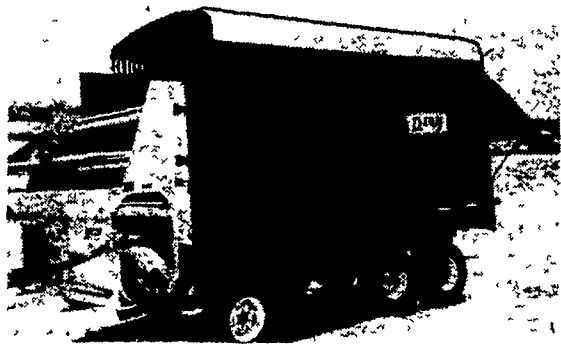
Those interested in attending should contact the Franklin County Conservation District office, 550 Cleveland Avenue, Chambersburg, or phone 264-8074. Reservations should be made by July 1.

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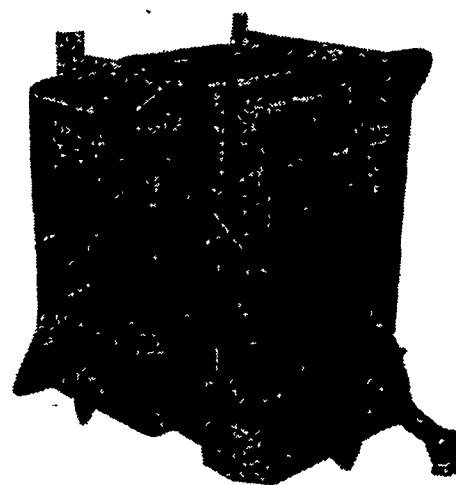
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