

Caterpillars Cause Tree Defoliation

ANNAPOLIS, Md.— Maryland Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Dr. Henry A. Virts has announced that the forest tent and looper caterpillars are doing extensive damage to trees, particularly in Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties.

"Many people confuse these loopers and tent caterpillars with the gypsy moth which we are attempting to control through spraying. Our gypsy moth suppression program is nearly complete for the year and treatments in many areas may have been early enough to control most of the forest tent caterpillars and loopers in the spray areas. Treatment for gypsy moth caterpillars, however, occurs in localized blocks and therefore areas not sprayed may still have a looper and forest tent caterpillar problem," Virts said.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Forest Pest management scientists have noted that an outbreak of a type of looper caterpillar — the fall cankerworm — is occurring this spring especially in the Salisbury area. South of Route 50 from Hebron through Salisbury to Powellville loopers are numer-

ous enough to cause a nuisance to people as well as defoliation of trees. These caterpillars are much smaller than full grown gypsy moth caterpillars, so the need to be very numerous to cause defoliation. Defoliated trees are already evident around Salisbury, Fruitland, and along Rt. 350 west of Salisbury.

Full-grown loopers, also called inchworms, are about one inch long, hairless, and vary from light green to dark brown in color. They are easily identified by their characteristic looping or inching walk.

Another species — the forest tent caterpillar — has been found throughout much of the same area this spring, but is especially prevalent along the Pocomoke River and its tributaries. Full grown forest tent caterpillars are about 2 inches long, have pale bluish lines along their sides and are characterized by a row of whitish, foot-shaped spots along the middle of their backs. Although they are called tent caterpillars, they do not make silk tents (or webs) as do the related Eastern tent caterpillars. Eastern tent caterpillars are numerous this year, but usually

are found on roadside wild cherry and crabapple trees and are less of a threat to the forest trees.

The forest tent caterpillars, as well as loopers, feed on a wide variety of hardwood trees. Forest tent caterpillars are often found on sweetgum, black gum and oaks, and loopers are commonly found on oaks and red maples. In areas where these caterpillars occur together severe tree defoliation may result.

While defoliation by the various caterpillars is expected to peak in the next week, defoliation by gypsy moth should not be evident until early June. Currently, gypsy moth caterpillars are still small — about 1/2 inch long — and are black and hairy.

Since forest tent caterpillars and loopers are nearly full grown, feeding should end in the next week or two. Chemical control should be applied early in the caterpillar's life cycle — usually by early May. At this time, since caterpillars are larger and feeding is nearly completed, control is much more difficult. In most areas, chemical control is no longer an alternative.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture annually monitors pest conditions in Maryland forests and will continue to monitor

the extent and severity of the outbreak. Questions should be directed to Dr. Robert Rabaglia, forest pest management, at (410) 841-5922.

Plant Drought-Resistant Varieties

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — In most landscapes, there are plants that survive periods of drought better than others. Proper spacing of these plants in the garden reduces the need to supply extra water during periods of inadequate rainfall.

When planning and designing the landscape, select plants for the growing conditions found at a particular site. Create a site plan that groups plants with similar water needs. In the site plan, consider three basic divisions: very low water zone, low water zone, and moderate water zone.

The following trees and shrubs are some that should be considered for low and very low zones: Hedge Maple, American Maple, Japanese Barberry, Flowering Quince, Cotoneaster, Juniper, Bayberry, Burr Oak, Chestnut Oak, Sumac, and Tamarack.

The annuals and perennials to consider for these areas are Yarrow, Snow-in-Summer, Blue Lyme Grass, Blanket Flower, Lavender, Russian Sage, Prairie Coneflower, Lavender-Cotton, Lamb's Ears, Globe Amaranth, Creeping Zinnia, and Marigold.

75th Anniversary Marks

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In 1972, the Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Association became the major funding source for DCI's nutrition education activities, providing new opportunities for Dairy Council programs.

In the early 1970s, Dairy Council introduced "Big Ideas," a curriculum for children from kindergarten through sixth grade. For the first time, the nutrition staff offered in-service programs to teachers on how to teach nutrition.

Thousands of school children participated in these nutrition lessons, which became the first nationwide nutrition program.

1980s—More Technologies, Less Time

The stress-filled, busy lifestyle made its mark in the 1980s. While personal computers, fax machines, and other new technologies evolved to make our lives easier, time became our most precious commodity.

Finding more time for ourselves became a priority. As a result, the '80s also brought on increased attention to fitness and health. Consumers were more sophisticated and committed to healthy eating.

Dairy Council addressed these concerns with contemporary programs geared for adults, such as "Nutrition and Your Busy Lifestyle" and "Lifesteps: Weight Management."

When cholesterol was on everyone's minds in the late '80s, Dairy Council responded with "Checking it Out," a popular consumer brochure on fat and cholesterol distributed nationwide.

Also in the early 1980s, "Nutri-Runs for Fitness" were cosponsored by Dairy Council and the Philadelphia Dietetic Association. At the last sponsored run in 1984, more than 800 people participated in the 10K event.

1990s—Dairy Council Tradition Continues

For Dairy Council, Inc., the 1990s is a decade of innovation, teamwork, and strengthened alliances. Dairy Council continues with its tradition of reaching educators, students, health professionals, adult consumers, and other audiences with nutrition education materials and programs.

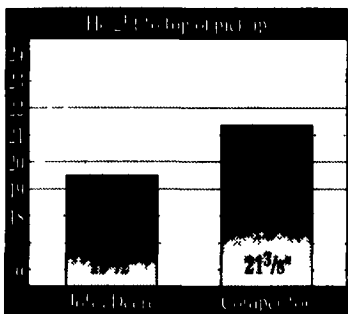
The '90s also brought changes to DCI so it can meet the changing needs and demands of the times. Dairy Council, Inc., was completely restructured and began to work in teams rather than by territorial division.

Customer Service became central to the heart of Dairy Council, together with a growing awareness of its partnership with the dairy farmers.

By 1992, school breakfast programs had become a central issue, both locally and nationally. The DCI staff developed school breakfast promotion events that included working with school districts to increase participation in their school breakfast programs.

This past year, more than 2,300 teachers, school nurses, coaches, food service personnel, and health professionals attended Dairy Council workshops or meetings. Health professionals ordered more than 30,000 brochures on osteoporosis, women's health, and calcium in 1994. More than 233,000 pieces of nutrition information were mailed to DCI customers.

Showing no signs of slowing down, this 75-year-old organization is anxiously preparing for nutrition education in the year 2000 and beyond.



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