

# Woodland News

hundred eggs, usually on the undersurface of the leaves. Young larvae hatch in approximately seven days. They immediately begin to spin a silken web over the foliage on which they feed. As they grow, they enlarge the web to enclose more and more foliage. These webs sometimes encompass 2-3 feet of the infested branch. The larvae are gregarious and feed together until the last molt, after which they feed independent of each other. Larvae mature in about six weeks. Young larvae are pale yellow with two rows of black marks along their bodies. When fully grown, they are covered with whitish hairs which spring from black and orange warts. The larvae vary as to the depth of coloring and markings, but are usually greenish with a broad, dusky stripe along the back and a yellow stripe along the side. Full grown larvae leave the web and pupate on or in the soil, or in crevices around buildings or fence posts. There are one or two generations per year, depending

on the geographical location. Fall webworm larvae skeletonize and consume leaves under the protection of a tent-like web which they enlarge as they grow and require additional food. Since tree leaves are in the process of "shutting down" their processes this time of year, webworms may defoliate a tree occasionally, but rarely kill it. On shade trees, the webs usually occur on an occasional branch. They may not injure the tree appreciably but they reduce its ornamental value. Natural enemies of various kinds help to control this insect. Birds, insect predators and insect parasites attack the fall webworm larvae. Clusters of eggs may be destroyed by predators and insect parasites. It is also possible to reduce their numbers by mechani-

cal control. When the tented branches are within reach, they can be snipped off and destroyed. This is practical if the tents have not become too large and the tree's shape is not threatened by this method. Bt is effective if applied when the webs are small. Remember that Bt must be consumed by the insect to be effective. Other chemical control measures can be used throughout the webworm season, but they are most effective when the webs are small. The entire tree need not be sprayed, but webs and surrounding foliage should be thoroughly covered. Remember that care should be taken when using any pesticide and directions on the label must be followed exactly for both safety and effectiveness.

## FALL WEBWORMS HAVE RETURNED

Dr. Robert S. Hansen  
Bradford County  
Cooperative Extension

After all the other insect problems our trees have had this year, there is still one more to face, the fall webworm. The fall webworm is a widely distributed defoliating pest of shade trees and shrubs and appears from late summer through early fall. The webworm constructs its nest over the end of the branch and feeds only on leaves within the web. The large conspicuous web is filled with caterpil-

lars, dead, partially-eaten leaves, and fecal droppings. The remains of these nests may persist through winter. The fall webworm overwinters as a brown pupae in a cocoon that is concealed in trash, ground litter, cracks and crevices, or in the soil. Adult moths first appear in early June but may continue to appear in small numbers during most of the summer. Moths vary considerably in color from pure white to white with black spots; their wingspread is about 1 1/4 inches. Females deposit their light yellow eggs in hair-covered masses of several

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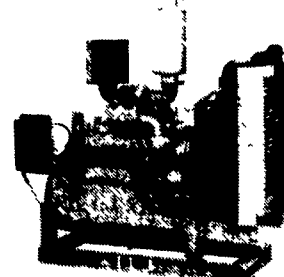
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