

## **Eastern Tent Caterpillars**

The Eastern Tent Caterpillar is an unsightly nuisance, but it does not cause significant damage. It is quite common in Southeastern Virginia. In the mature stage they are 2-2 1/2 inches long and have a white stripe down their spine.

Treatment is simple and does not require toxins. Break up the tents or communal nests with a stick, pole pruner or other device when first spotted in early spring. You can then burn the nest and caterpillars to eradicate this pest.



Tanglefoot is a very sticky substance that can be purchased at several local nurseries. It can be spread around the trunk of any tree that you wish to protect. The caterpillars will get stuck when they try to cross it, and you can pick them out and kill them.

## **Gypsy Moth Caterpillars**

The Gypsy Moth Caterpillar is a much more dangerous relative and which may defoliate trees and in extreme cases may cause the death of trees. This caterpillar is characterized by five double blue spots and six double red spots on the top of segments and a thin yellow line down the spine. Please report sightings of these caterpillars as soon as possible.



Jan. 4, 2009