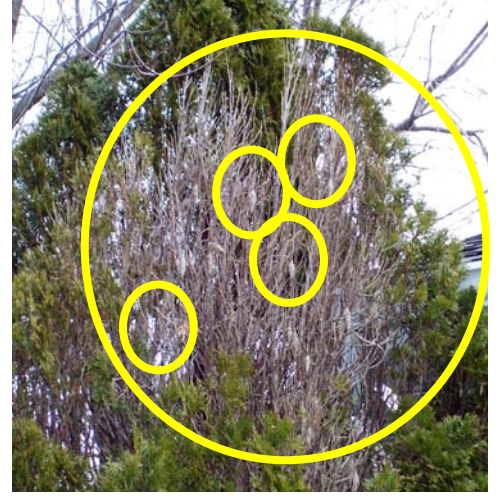


Bagworms on Evergreen Trees

The bagworm is a perennial insect of arborvitae, cypress, juniper, pine, spruce and many other evergreen species. It also attacks certain deciduous trees such as black locust, honey locust and sycamore. Spread of the bagworm is slow because the adult females are unable to fly. Their dispersal over wide areas occurs mainly through movement of infested nursery stock. Additionally, wind can disperse small larvae during early June.

The insect is most easily identified by the bag or case the caterpillar builds around itself on the plant that it is feeding from. The bag is made from silk that the worm weaves along with bits of the host plant's leaves. When fully mature the caterpillars bag may be 1 ½- 2 inches long.

The female will lay 300-1,000 eggs inside the bag. The eggs hatch from late-May to mid June. The larvae are most susceptible to treatment mid to late June.



Bags with worms inside

Bags and Bagworm Damage

| <u>Pest</u> | <u>Control</u> | <u>Timing of Treatment</u> | <u>Remarks</u> |
|--|----------------------------|---|---|
| Bagworm | <u>Light infestation</u> | August to May | Overwintering eggs remain inside the bags until hatching in late May. Destroy the bags; eggs will hatch from bags thrown on the ground. |
| The first two treatments are organic and safe for the environment. | Remove and burn bags | | |
| | Bacillus thuringensis (Bt) | Treat when larvae are young mid-late June | Lightly misting the foliage is sufficient. Mist blower treatments are effective. |
| | Pemethrin Malathion | Apply when bags are less than ½ inch. May in coastal Virginia. Control is much less effective if applied later than mid-June | Avoid using in public areas |