

Eastern Tent Caterpillar

Conspicuous white masses in the forks of tree limbs in early spring are the tents of the native eastern tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma americanum*. A colony of hairy caterpillars lives in the tent, coming out to feed at night. Trees most commonly affected are fruit trees, such as apple, cherry, flowering crabapple, plum, and chokecherry, but the caterpillars may also defoliate other hardwood trees.

Infestations rarely kill trees – the damage is primarily cosmetic. Even if completely defoliated, most trees will produce new leaves within two or three weeks.



Control

- Remove and destroy eggs masses in winter.
- Remove small tents by hand (wearing gloves).
- Remove larger webs with a broom or stick.
- Use insecticides only for caterpillars less than one inch in length; do NOT use products that can kill bees if the tree is flowering.

Provided by
wimastergardener.org



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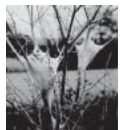
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Additional Resources

Eastern Tent Caterpillar

- UW-Extension Pub. A2933, *Eastern Tent Caterpillar*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Eastern-Tent-Caterpillar-P428.aspx>
- UW-Extension Fact Sheet XHT1066, *Webworms*, at <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/webworms/>
- Article on MG website at <http://wimastergardener.org/article/eastern-tent-caterpillar-malacosoma-americanum/>

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