

Fall Webworm

Hyphantria cunea

The tents of this native North American moth are noticeable in July or August. It differs from the Eastern tent caterpillar (which is present only in spring) by creating silk webs on the branch tips instead of in branch crotches. The hairy caterpillars grow to about 1" long and vary in coloration. They feed on leaves within the web. Shade trees and ornamentals can be heavily defoliated, and the large webs are unsightly, but tree health is rarely affected. Elm, fruit and nut trees and maple are preferred hosts, but they will feed on over 100 species of hardwoods.



Control

- Wipe out tents with a long stick.
- Make applications of BT or chemicals when larvae are less than ½ inch long (read the label FIRST). Only treat the web and associated foliage, not the entire plant.

Provided by

wimastergardener.org



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Additional Resources

Fall Webworm

- UW-Extension Garden Fact Sheet XHT1066, *Webworms*, at <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/webworms/>
- Article on MG website at <http://wimastergardener.org/article/fall-webworm-hyphantrea-cunea/>
- *Fall Webworm*, Penn State Entomological Note at <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/fall-webworm>

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