

Insect Fact Sheet

Bagworms

Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis

Description

Bagworms are a common pest in the landscape most easily recognized by the case or bag that the caterpillar forms and inhabits. The insect causes extensive damage to many species of conifers and deciduous trees as it eats and uses the plant foliage for its bags.

Symptoms & Diagnosis

Bagworm larva begin to hatch, feed, and construct bags during May and June. Their characteristic bags are built using silk produced by the insect and portions of the host plant. In large numbers, damage from bagworms can quickly defoliate a tree or shrub.

Treatment

If an infestation is small enough, handpicking or cutting the bag from the host plant before egg hatch or after mating season may provide adequate control. A large infestation requires appropriate treatments to be applied after larva have hatched. Treatments lessen in efficacy as the larvae mature and expand their bags.

Management

Managing tree stress is a crucial component of insect management. Tree can remain healthier and aesthetically pleasing longer by properly managing water, avoiding compaction and grade changes, and controlling insects. Fertilization improves tree vigor.

Affected Species

<i>Thuja</i>	Arborvitae
<i>Juniperus</i>	Juniper
<i>Picea</i>	Spruce
<i>Gleditsia</i>	Honeylocust



Bagworms use plant parts in the formation of their bags.



Bagworms can quickly defoliate trees as they use the foliage for food source and in the construction of their bags.