

# Pest Alert Tent Caterpillar

## Tent Caterpillars Setting Up Camp Now



### Tent Caterpillar Facts:

- Commonly found in wild cherry, apple and crabapple trees
- Hatching larvae build nests in branch crotches
- Nests can get quite large and will last all season if not controlled or removed
- *Eliminating egg masses also a good control – masses look like dark Styrofoam on small branches*
- Caterpillars are easily identified by their colorful striped body
- Easiest to control when caterpillars are small
- Adult moth is reddish brown with 2 pale stripes on each forewing – Adults do not feed on plants

Tent Caterpillars are a native insect in North America. Their populations rise and fall over a period of years with severe outbreaks occurring every few years. Tent Caterpillars can severely defoliate a tree, and their silk nests are unsightly and quite durable, often lasting a full season. Tent Caterpillar eggs hatch in late spring and summer and the caterpillars are often found on wild cherry, apple and crabapple trees in the landscape.

Tent Caterpillars are often confused with Fall Webworms. However, as their name indicates, Fall Webworms are more common later in the season, and their nests occur on the ends of branches and not in branch crotches like the Tent Caterpillar.

Tent Caterpillars are susceptible to many common caterpillar killing insecticides. These include chemical controls like **Bonide Caterpillar Killer**. This Bonide product comes in a ready to spray applicator which hooks to your garden hose and which will deliver a dose of insecticide to trees up to 25 feet high. **Bonide Eight® Yard and Garden Insect Control** is also effective against this stinging pest, and is also available in the hose end applicator bottle.

Gardeners who are looking for natural controls for Tent Caterpillars can find excellent control by using either **Bonide Thuricide® (BT) Liquid**, or the new **Bonide Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew** product. Thuricide contains a bacterial control for caterpillars called bacillus thuringiensis. This is a fast acting natural insect control which only affects caterpillars. Captain Jack's products contain **Spinosad®** insecticide, a recently discovered insect killer which is derived from natural bacteria. Spinosad kills caterpillars quickly and is a natural product.

In large numbers, Tent Caterpillars can defoliate a tree, making it susceptible to a number of other problems. Their unsightly nests also detract from the appearance of landscape trees.

When applying chemical controls for Tent Caterpillar control, be sure to follow the label directions including timing, temperature and wind conditions.

### Bonide Control Products for Tent Caterpillar



#### Caterpillar Killer

- Kills caterpillars on contact
- Lasts up to 8 weeks
- Twist & Shoot sprayer reaches up to 25 ft.
- Contains Lambda Cyhalothrin



#### Eight Yard & Garden

- Great outdoor insect killer
- Non-staining water based
- Kills caterpillars
- Contains permethrin



#### Thuricide® Bt

- Natural caterpillar control
- Will not harm beneficial insects
- Bacterial caterpillar killer



#### Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew

- Natural caterpillar control
- Use effectively for many insects
- Contains Spinosad®