

Pest Alert – Winter Moths

November Starts Winter Moth Season



Winter Moth Larva

Winter Moth Adult Male

Winter Moth Adult Female

Winter Moth was introduced to North America from Europe. This pest is now found in New England and is concentrated in the areas around Boston and Cape Cod. This is the first known occurrence of the insect in New England. The insect is expected to expand its reach into other areas of the Northeast. The pest has also been found in parts of Washington and Oregon.

Many deciduous plants are susceptible to Winter Moth damage. These include: oaks, maples, basswood, ash, crabapples, apple, and blueberry. Young larvae (caterpillars) are tiny inchworms and they tunnel into buds where they feed. They especially seem to prefer fruit trees such as apple, blueberry, and cherry, and crabapple. However, they also tunnel into the buds of maples. These caterpillars move from bud to bud as they feed.

A **dormant oil spray** such as ***Bonide All Seasons Oil®*** to the trunks and branches of trees may be helpful to kill the over-wintering eggs before they hatch. Apply in late November/December.

Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t. (kurstaki), which is a bacterium and specific to caterpillars of butterflies and moths, works very well on the younger larvae of both winter moth and cankerworms while they are free feeders (not in the buds). Look for ***Bonide Thuricide® (Bt) Liquid*** which contains the bacterium.

Spinosad, which is available homeowners, is another biorational compound that works well against winter moth and cankerworms. One such homeowner product is ***Captain Jack's® Deadbug Insecticide*** from Bonide Products. These insecticides should be applied in March and April when larvae are young and are actively feeding.

Winter Moth Facts:

- Introduced from Europe and common in eastern Canada – Now found in large numbers in coastal Massachusetts
- Feed on many different types of deciduous trees including ornamentals and fruit bearing varieties
- Adult moths emerge from soil in late November and stay active laying eggs until January
- Females do not fly, but lay eggs on trees after mating – eggs hatch before spring bud break for most host plants
- Larvae move from tree to tree by “Ballooning” using wind and silk strands to move from plant to plant

Bonide Winter Moth Control Products



All Seasons Oil

Apply Late November to early March for best control of Winter Moth

Pt. Conc – Bonide # 210
Qt. Conc – Bonide #211
Qt. RTS – Bonide #213
Qt. RTU – Bonide #214



Thuricide BT

Apply when larvae are active in March and April
All Natural
Fast kill of feeding larvae

8 oz. Conc – Bonide #802



Capt. Jacks

Contains Spinosad
Apply to active larvae
All Natural

Qt. RTU – Bonide #250
Pt. Conc – Bonide #252
Qt. Conc – Bonide #253
Qt. RTS – Bonide #255