

Battling Bagworms in your Landscape

Bagworms are caterpillar pests of some of our favorite evergreen trees like pine, spruce, juniper, and arborvitae. They may also be found on deciduous trees like oak, locust trees, and sycamore.



Bagworms get their name from the tough “bag” of silk and debris they create. Bags are made with leaves, needles, and berries from the tree they are feeding on and provides them protection and camouflage as they feed and grow.

Bagworm life-cycle



Bagworm eggs hatch in late May/early June

Bagworms feed and build for 8-10 weeks



Bagworms are mature in Aug-Sept

BUSTING BAGWORMS

- Bagworms are easiest to control in June, when they are small and susceptible
- Spray a Bt based product. which poses little to no hazard to non-target wildlife
- If you miss this early window, treat larger bagworms with carabaryl or pyrethroids to manage populations
- To prevent re-infestation, go out in March or April, cut bags from the tree, and destroy them

Small bagworms can be carried by the wind to new sites, so always monitor your trees!

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