Evergreen Bagworms

_Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis_, commonly known as the common bagworm or evergreen bagworm, can be found feeding on 50 families of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. The most commonly infested species in Virginia include junipers, arborvitae, cedars, pine, hemlock, spruce, Chinese elm, and honeylocust. Damage consists of increasing defoliation from late June to August. Stripping of the leaves is most noticeable in the upper branches of trees and shrubs, along with the presence of the 1 ½ in. bags (Figure 1) from late summer through the following spring.

Evergreen bagworms often go unnoticed in the landscape because the female is wingless and enclosed in her bag throughout her life. The bags for both females and males are a brown color that remain small (less than ¼ in.) for most of the year. The adult male does have wings and emerges from the bag in late summer as a hairy, charcoal brown moth (Figure 2). This is about the time when most people begin to notice the infestation in their trees and shrubs.

The best time to treat for evergreen bagworms is in early to mid-June, as the larvae begin to construct their bags. If left untreated, the larvae continue to feed and grow in size until August when pupation occurs. The adults

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Comments or Questions? Please call or email: Shawn Appling, Associate Extension Agent ANR, Horticulture: Culpeper County Office at (540) 727-3435 Ext. 355 or ashaw6@vt.edu
Also serving Madison and Orange Counties

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Shawn Appling at 540-727-3435 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. **TDD number is (800) 828-1120.**

Figure 1. Evergreen bagworm. Photo by Eric Day, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE Publication 2808-1008)

Figure 2. Evergreen bagworm adult male. Photo by Curtis Young, Ohio State University
are active in late August and September but the female remains protected by the bag, which is not easily penetrated with insecticidal sprays. The only control option in September through winter is to remove the bags by hand, burn or dispose of the bags in seal trash bags. Insecticidal sprays can be effective the following year in late May to early June. Please consult the 2017 Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Pest Management Guide for chemical control options - http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/456/456-018/456-018-17-home-grounds.pdf.

For more information, please view the following articles or contact your local extension office (http://ext.vt.edu/offices.html):


Discula Anthracnose

This is one of the most damaging diseases of our native dogwoods (Cornus florida) in the landscape and forest. Discula anthracnose, caused by the fungus Discula destructiva, causes stem, branch, and eventually death of infected trees.

The infection starts in early to mid-May, as leaf spots with tan to purple borders (Figure 3). The spots can enlarge quickly in wet, humid conditions resulting in the death of infected leaves. Under severe disease pressure, flower bracts may become infected. One of the distinguishing features of this diseases is that the dead leaves remain hanging on the stems for the rest of the summer and into winter. The fungus then spreads from the leaves into the stems and branches, causing cankers (Figure 4), along with stem and branch death. Infection of the main trunk can lead to the death of the tree. Infected leaves and cankers act as disease inoculum for the following spring.

Control strategies involve removal of diseased leaves in the fall, along with pruning of diseased branches. Please consult the 2017 VCE Pest Management Guide for chemical control options - http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/456/456-018/456-018-17-home-grounds.pdf. Another option is to plant the following disease resistant dogwood species and cultivars:

- Cornus florida ‘Appalachian Spring’
• *Cornus kousa*
• *Cornus kousa* x *Cornus florida* hybrids

For more information, please view the following articles or contact your local extension office (http://ext.vt.edu/offices.html):


**Exciting Plants: *Cladrastis kentukea***

If you are looking for a replacement for your ash tree lost to emerald ash borer or if you are just looking for a great all around tree then consider *Cladrastis kentukea*, commonly known as American yellowwood. American yellowwood is native to the Central and Southern United States, from Missouri to Georgia. It is cold hardy to USDA hardiness zone 4 and has been successfully planted in Minnesota and Maine. This tree grows about 30 to 50 ft. in height with a spread of 40 to 55 ft.

American yellowwood puts on a show for all four seasons. The year begins with the unfolding of pinnately compound leaves that open a bright yellow green, gradually changing to bright green by summer. In late spring, this plant awakens your senses with fragrant white wisteria-like flowers that hang from the branches in 4 to 8 in. long panicles. Fall foliage color is a bright yellow to golden yellow (Figure 5). Throughout the winter months, the smooth gray beech-like bark brightens the season. The cultivar *Cladrastis kentukea* ‘Rosea’ has beautiful pink flowers with the same amazing fragrance. The common name is derived from the appearance of the heartwood of the tree.

Figure 4. Discula anthracnose branch canker. University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Publication PPFS-OR-W-06

Figure 5. Yellowwood in fall color. Photo by Jesse Saylor, Michigan State University
For more information, please view the following articles or contact your local extension office (http://ext.vt.edu/offices.htm):


Events of Interest

- **Grow Your Own Vegetable Garden Series** *(All classes will be from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm)*. September 21 - Overwintering, Cover Crops, Storage - Vegetables Discussed - Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower. October 19 - Putting Your Garden to Bed - Vegetables Discussed - Fall Asparagus, Garlic, Shallots. November 16 - Principles of Organic Gardening. All classes will be held at CFC Farm and Home Center (unless otherwise noted above), 15172 Brandy Rd. Culpeper, VA 22701. For more information or to register, please call 540-727-3435 or email ashawn6@vt.edu.
- **Culpeper Harvest Days Farm Tour on October 7 and 8**: Please visit www.culpeperfarmtour.com for more information
- **2018 Extension Master Gardener Training for Culpeper, Greene, Madison, and Orange Counties, starting January 16**: For more information, please contact VCE - Culpeper (540) 727-3435 Ext. 355, ashawn6@vt.edu; or VCE - Greene (434) 985-5236, seweaver@vt.edu
- **Using Herbicides Safely and Successfully on September 29 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm)**. Topics will include plant identification, how to choose an herbicide, equipment, and many more! For more information, please contact VCE - Fauquier (540) 341-7950 or register online at https://register.ext.vt.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseId=43036&selectedProgramAreaId=25575&selectedProgramStreamId
Super Stir Fry

Ingredients:
1 cup brown rice
1/2 cup onions
1/2 cup green peppers
1/2 cup broccoli
1/2 cup cauliflower
1/2 cup carrots
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 cup water
2 tablespoons sodium free beef bouillon
2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar
1 teaspoon molasses
1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 1/2 cups cool water

Equipment:
Sauce pan with lid
Non stick skillet
Cutting board
Knife
Measuring spoons
Liquid measuring cup
Small saucepan
Cup

Number of Servings: 4
Prep Time: 30 minutes
Total Time: 30 minutes

Directions
1. Cook brown rice according to package directions.
2. Chop onions and green peppers into 1 inch pieces.
3. Cut broccoli branches off the stalk and break up into 1 inch chunks. Remove tough parts from the stalk and chop into bite size pieces. Set aside.
4. Chop cauliflower in the same manner as the broccoli. Set aside.
5. Slice carrot into thin slices. Set aside.
6. In a small saucepan, mix together water, beef bouillon, vinegar, molasses, and ginger, bring to a boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat.
7. Spoon cornstarch in the bottom of a cup and add cool water. Use a fork to mix together until there are no more lumps. Add to bouillon mixture and stir. Cornstarch will settle so stir again before adding to vegetables. Set aside.
8. Heat oil in a non stick skillet on high until hot. Add vegetables to pan according to the level of firmness, harder vegetables first so they have more time to cook.
9. When vegetables are crispy tender, add stir fry sauce, and stir until all vegetables are coated. Serve with rice.