

OSU EXTENSION NEWS



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Fall webworms observed throughout the county

The fall webworm is being seen all over the county and the common question lately is "How do I get rid of these worms on my trees?"

The fall webworm has been recorded on at least 88 species of shade, fruit, and ornamental trees in the United States. The preferred hosts vary from one area to another. In Oklahoma however, persimmon and pecan are the most commonly infested along with black walnut and hickory. Sycamore, birch and redbud are often attacked in years of heavy infestations.

Damage is caused by the larvae feeding on the leaves. They rarely are heavy enough to defoliate trees except for young pecans and persimmons. On most forest and shade trees, the insect is detrimental mainly to the beauty of the host and is thus more of a nuisance than a threat to the health of the tree. Actual damage can occur on pecan as defoliation affects tree vigor, yield, and nut quality. The earlier the defoliation, the more harmful the damage.

Methods of control can include manual removal, spraying with high pressure water or even hand removal. These two methods of control tend to be temporary as the webworms will rebuild the web structure within a few days if the webworm is not destroyed during the process. A better method of control is using insecticide sprays. The following is a list of insecticides that tend to work well for fall webworm control.

- Bayer Advanced Power force Multi Insect Killer
- Ortho Bug-B-Gon Max Garden & Landscape Insect Killer
- Thuricide - Organic Insecticide
- Malathion

As always read labels before applying any insecticides.