

Winter Moth Presentation

September 21, 2017

A bit about the moth and
HOW TO MANAGE IT!!



Winter Moth History

Winter moth discovered in Nova Scotia in the 1930's. Landed on the radar in New England in Massachusetts in the early 2000's. Starting in the eastern part of the State and quickly spreading Statewide, most of Rhode Island, and of course Maine.

The first substantial outbreak in Maine was recorded in 2011.

Winter Moth Life Cycle

Winter moth get its name from the time of year adults are active. Adult moths emerge from the ground after the first couple of frosts in November. Males tend to congregate around lights and may be seen in swarms. Males are winged and the females are wingless.



A single female may lay upwards of 150 eggs. These eggs are deposited at the base of buds. Upon hatching in the Spring baby caterpillars will work their way in between bud scales and feed on the leaf tissue inside.





'Baby' Winter moth caterpillar feeding on leaves in opening bud.



'Baby' Winter moth
caterpillar feeding on
leaves in opening bud.

Winter moth caterpillars feed on deciduous trees and shrubs. Unlike Browntail or Gypsy moth, Winter moth will feed on a wide range of plants Oaks, Maple, Birch, Elm, and blueberries to name a few.



As the caterpillars mature their feeding activity becomes more noticeable. Tree canopies may look thin or wispy. As the caterpillars get larger they begin to 'balloon' on strands of silk.





Winter moth caterpillar
'ballooning' on silk strand.

Once the caterpillars have fed and grown they pupate. Winter moth caterpillars spend the entire summer in the soil as they pupate. Pupae may be found in cocoons which look like clumps of soil.



Winter Moth Management

As the leaves begin to change color and the temps get a little cooler, its time to begin thinking Winter moth management`. It won't be long before the adults begin to emerge from the their underground pupas.



Prior to emergence the banding of trees in your yard can help reduce the amount of Winter moth caterpillars you will have in your yard the following Spring.



Tree banding is the non-chemical approach to Winter moth management. And is a simple three step process.

Step 1: Wrap your base around the trunk of the tree. This may be cardboard, burlap, or we recommend paper faced insulation.



Step 2: Once you have your base taped to the tree then its time to apply the Tanglefoot.



Tanglefoot may be purchased at your local hardware store or garden center. Online sources are also available.



Step 3: Monitor and re-apply Tanglefoot as necessary



It is a good idea to visit your band every few days once moths begin to appear near outdoor lights. Bands may quickly fill up with females (and males). If you have to re-apply the Tanglefoot just apply it as a second layer on the same base.



Female moths will crawl over each other in an attempt to climb up the tree.



Hiring a Professional

Properly licensed and insured contractors may provide services to manage Winter moth on your property.

The City maintains a State list of contractors on its website under the Forestry Division page.

Another management option is Spring treatments targeting the caterpillars. Treatments may be made with sprays...



...Or by tree injection.



Comparisons Between Tree Species

YEW



Yew

PINES



European Larch



European Silver Fir



Norway Spruce



Maritime Pine



Scots Pine



Stone Pine

Contact Info

CYPRESSES



Western Red Cedar



Cedar of Lebanon



WALNUTS



HORSE CHESTNUTS



HOLLIES



Holly

Kyle Rosenberg

443-8345

WILLOWS & POPLARS



Common Osier



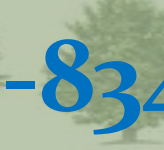
White Poplar



Black Poplar



Poplar



Grey Willow



Crack Willow



White Willow



Weeping Willow

krosenberg@cityofbath.com

BIRCH



European Alder



Common Alder



Downy Birch



Silver Birch



Common Hazel



Hornbeam



Paper-Bark Birch

BEECHES & OAKS



Common Beech



Sessile Oak



Pendunculate Oak



Wych Elm



English Elm



Smooth-Leaved Elm

MULBERRIES



Fig

LAURELS



Bay

PLANES



London Plane

PEAS



Common Laburnum

MAPLES



Sycamore



Field Maple