

BAGWORM



WHAT IS THE THREAT:

The family of Bagworms is comprised of over 1000 species' whose larvae are enclosed in a bag and most species have flightless adult females. The common bagworm, *Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis*, is one of the most damaging pests of urban trees and shrubs in the northeastern and southern U.S. Severe infestations can damage the aesthetics and health of host plants, especially juniper and arborvitae species, which are commonly grown in temperate climates.

WHERE IS THE THREAT:

The common bagworm, a native species, is distributed throughout the eastern United States, as far west as Nebraska and north to southern Michigan. The larvae feed on over 50 families of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Common hosts include juniper, arborvitae, oak, cedar and willow. Other hosts include maple, elm, pine, hawthorn, ligustrum, and viburnum

SYMPTOMS:

In the spring, very small caterpillars disperse by "ballooning"; spin strands of silk and carried by wind to new hosts. Initial feeding damage by bagworm on evergreen trees causes branch tips to appear brown and unhealthy. As the larvae become larger, their feeding damage becomes more apparent. During the summer, larvae can cause severe defoliation and even death, especially on evergreen species because their leaves are not replenished as readily as those of deciduous trees.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

Trunk injections of TREE-äge® or ACE-jet should be made in spring, when bagworm outbreaks are expected. TREE-äge® can provide protection for 2 years. Alternatively, treat with ACE-jet when leaf injury first appears, or when bags are first observed. One application is sufficient to control bagworm. ACE-jet remains active to protect the tree canopy for approximately 3 – 5 weeks. Alternatively, AzaSol, an insect growth regulator and feeding deterrent, can be applied as a trunk injection, soil drench or foliar spray.



Bagworm Male



Bagworm



Damage caused by bagworm



Damage on spruce caused by bagworm

Header Image: Mike Hogan, OSU Extension, Bagworm Male: North Carolina Extension, Bagworm: Mary Jane Frogge, Nebraska Extension, Bagworm Damage: Blake Layton, MSU Extension, Bagworm Damage on Spruce: Joe Boggs, OSU Extension

TREE-äge® Insecticide is a Restricted Use Pesticide and must only be sold to and used by a state certified applicator or by persons under their direct supervision.