

Columbia Green

October 2013

Commercial

UF/IFAS Extension
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Fall Webworms Just Hanging Around

The silken tents of the fall webworm, *Hyphantria cunea*, is a common but unwelcome site in the fall landscape. The fall webworm is a pest of numerous ornamental trees and shrubs which are often defoliated by voracious feeding.

The nocturnal adult moths are white with tan spots and are attracted to light. They have a wingspan of about 1 1/2 inches and emerge as early as March in the south. The iridescent green egg mass, containing 400-1000 eggs, is usually deposited on the undersides of leaves in the spring.

In one to two weeks, the larvae hatch and immediately begin spinning their silk tent. The youngest stage caterpillars place the web over single leaves and feed by skeletonizing.

Later stages or instars are hairy and



Photo by James Castner, University of Florida
Numerous tents created by larvae from separate egg clusters of the fall webworm.



Photo by Lyle J. Buss, University of Florida
Silken tent created by larvae of the fall webworm.

either have a lime green body with black spots or have a darker color, especially in the later instars. The head capsules can be either red or black, but the red-headed larvae are usually found in the south. Mature larvae feed together in groups by forming large tents in the host plant.

Full-grown larvae leave the web to pupate in leaf litter or bark crevices where they overwinter. Pupation occurs in thin, brown cocoons.

Part of the fall webworm's success as a species can be attributed to the fact that its larvae are capable of feeding on a wide range of host plants. Preferred host plants include hickory, pecan, walnut, and elm. But it is not uncommon to see webs on holly, boxwood, canna, barberry, trumpet vine, beech, elderberry, honeysuckle, viburnum, euonymus, dogwood, juniper, azalea, sweetgum, hickory, ash, sassafras, hibiscus, tulip tree, magnolia, blackgum, fringetree, helianthus, spirea, mulberry and elm (just to name a few).



License Summary

Lawn Maintenance and Landscaping Businesses should have:

Occupational Permit - by law, from tax collector's office
cctc@columbiataxcollector.com

Insurance—from your own insurance agent. Proof of minimum bodily and property damage coverage is needed to be able to obtain professional licenses.

Workers Compensation (depending on number of hires)
www.myfloridacfo.com/WC/employer/index.html

Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance License—required by law if any type of weed killer, insecticide or fungicide is used. FDACS Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control.

Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP)
 Beginning 1/1/14, any professional who fertilizes a customer's home lawn is required to have this certification under Chapter 482.1562, Florida Statutes. It is a prerequisite for the Limited Fertilizer license. UF and Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

Limited Cert. for Urban Landscape Comm. Fertilizer—license required by law as of 1/1/14 for every individual who applies any type of fertilizer to a customer's lawn. FDACS Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control. This limited license is similar to the LCLM pesticide applicator li-

Use Safer Insecticides

Hungry caterpillars can be serious pests on ornamentals, but you can manage them naturally with a product known as **Bt**.

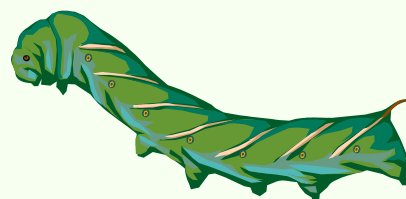
The name "**Bt**" is actually an abbreviation for a bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis* that's naturally found in soil and acts as a natural insecticide.

Bt works by interfering with the digestive systems of caterpillars, causing them to stop eating and then die. Although **Bt** is poisonous for caterpillars, it's safe for animals, humans, and the environment.

Different strains of **Bt** control different insect larvae. Look for the type that targets caterpillars that feed on vegetables, trees, and shrubs, often sold under the brand names Dipel and Thuricide.

You may need to apply **Bt** more than once to fully eliminate pest populations.

Don't forget that some hungry caterpillars may soon become beautiful butterflies.



Controlling Fall Webworm?

Clients may ask you to eliminate the ugly webs of the fall webworm. This may not be practical. Try educating clients about the insect and their life cycle.

If the tents are low enough, open them up with a stick and let the birds and predators have a feast. Or open them and spray with **Bt**. Sprays will not penetrate the webs very well without opening them up.

Some people may want you to cut out the large tented branches to improve the looks. Remind clients that the plant will recover in the spring and look normal.

Good UF/IFAS Resources

Natural Products for Insect Pest Management E.Buss and S. Park-Brown
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in197>

Using Your Handheld Lawn and Garden Sprayer F.M.Fishel
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pi211>

M. Sanford, *Protecting Honey Bees from Pesticides (CIR534)*,

The honeybee is only one of many bees and pollinators in Florida; however, it is the most important bee for Florida and the nation’s agricultural economy. Honeybees supply approximately 1/3 of the national food supply through pollination activity.

To eliminate damage to honeybees, pesticide applicators should keep the following suggestions in mind:

- ***Use only when needed.** Factor in the value of beneficial insects (pollinators and predators) when deciding whether or not to spray for pests.
- ***Do not spray while plants are in bloom.** Apply during bud stage or after petal drop.
- ***Apply when bees are not active.** Bees fly from roughly 8 AM to 5 PM when temperatures are above 55°F–60°F. Early evening is the best time for pesticide application.
- ***Use less toxic compounds.** Products hazardous to honeybees must say so on the label. Two products especially harmful to honeybees are malathion and carbaryl (Sevin®). Both have been responsible for bee kills when the products have been used under the wrong conditions. Unfortunately, these chemicals have been regularly used by gardeners for many years.

Pesticide applicators need to be aware about the interactions of honeybees and pesticides, consider honeybee safety, and keep pesticide applications from affecting area bee colonies. Generally, colonies are only harmed when decisions are made without knowledge of or regard for honeybee safety.

Understanding how bees forage helps to realize how susceptible to pesticides they are. Bees range 2–5 miles from a colony and seek out nectar and pollen in a systematic way. Once a food source is found, bees tend to collect only from that single source until it is used up before switching plants.

Most major bee poisoning occurs when plants are in bloom. Bees that establish flight patterns in an area before a pesticide is applied usually are most affected. Bees that come to an area after pesticide applications are less affected since it takes time to scout and find food sources

Pesticide poisoning of honeybees depends on the bees’ developmental stage. Colony disruption and population decline in the hive can occur from the poisoning of bees in any developmental stage.

Larval stage

- *Most susceptible to poisoning
- *Killed by contaminated pollen and nectar

Adult house bee

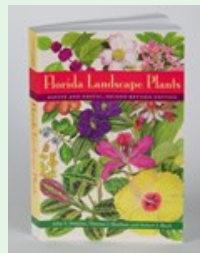
- *Active in the hive
- *Tend larvae (brood)
- *Killed by contaminated stored pollen
- *The loss of house bees, which tend brood and larvae, further reduces hive population.

Adult field bee

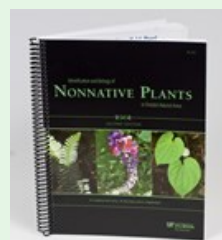
- *Active outside the hive
- *Forage for pollen and nectar to bring to the hive
- *Killed by direct contact with pesticides and sprays
- *Bring back contaminated pollen and nectar to the hive



Helpful, Harmful, Harmless?
Insects. SP 130 \$12.



Florida Landscape Plants
SP 337 \$19.95



Invasive and Non-native Plants
SP 257 \$30

Find these and other great books and resources at <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu>

UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore

Toll Free Phone: 800-226-1764



Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Workshop

Location: UF/IFAS Extension, Columbia County

971 W. Duval St. #170, Lake City, FL 32055

When: Thursday, November 14th 8:15 am - 3:15 pm

UF/IFAS Extension
971 W. Duval St., #170
Lake City, FL 32055

Phone: 386-752-5384
dndemorest@ufl.edu
Fax: 386-758-2173

Treating ornamentals and plant beds with pesticides
Also referred to as the roundup license

Earn 6 total **CEUs**. 3 each General Standards/Core, and L&O, LL&O, or LCLM
This class offers the required 6 CEUs to obtain your LCLM Certification.

LICENSE RENEWAL - individuals may attend first 4 hours for necessary CEUs to renew

Let us help
you avoid
costly
fines...

8:15 Registration and Pretest

Session Topics:

- Pesticides and Environmental Concerns
- Herbicides and IPM
- Pesticide Label and the Law
- Common Weed ID
- Major Insect Groups and Feeding
- LCLM Laws and Regulations

3:00 Optional test

You may take the exam immediately after the training **ONLY** if you have all completed paperwork with you. Paperwork includes completed application, completed proof of insurance form, a 2" x 2" headshot photo, a \$150 check payable to FDACS, and a picture ID. Download your forms for Limited Commercial Landscape Certification at <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Search-by-Business/Pest-Control/Forms-and-Publications>

Pre-study is recommended. FDACS will charge you \$150 for each retake. Books can be purchased through the UF/IFAS bookstore www.ifasbooks.com. Please contact Nichelle Demorest at dndemorest@ufl.edu if you plan to test immediately after the class.

Obtain your
**LCLM
Certification**

or

Get CEUs to
**renew a
Certification**

Name _____ Phone _____

Company _____ email _____

Make \$30 check payable to Columbia County Extension 4-H . Return to UF/IFAS Extension address above or call **752-5384** (Pre-registration is required)

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