

# HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET



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## Bagworm

In southeastern New York, the bagworm is a common destructive pest. It is particularly serious on arborvitae and juniper but also feeds on a variety of other trees and shrubs, especially spruce, sycamore, willows, locust, linden, silver maple and box elder.

This pest is easily identified by its bags, which are about 2" long and made of bits of leaves and bark webbed together with silk.

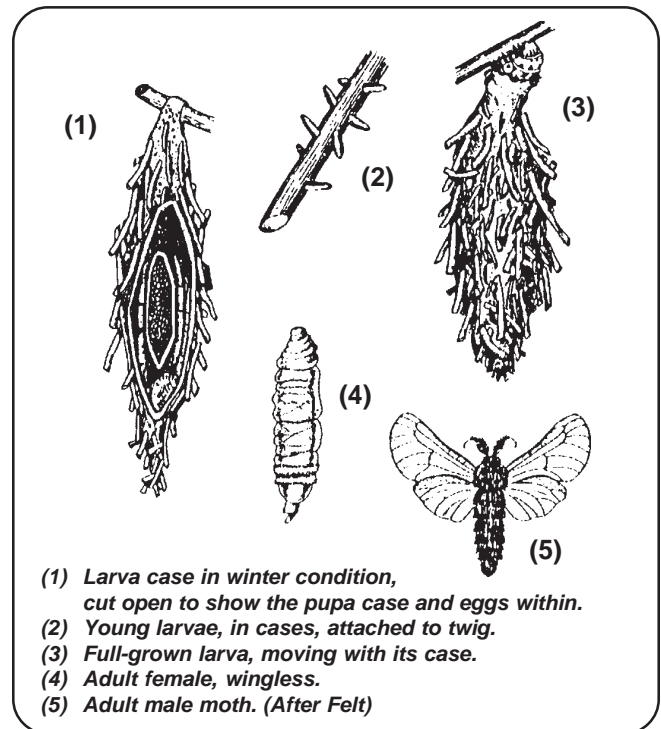
The insect passes the winter in the egg stage in the old bags. The caterpillars hatch in mid-June and start feeding and constructing small bags of their own. The caterpillars live inside the bags, enlarging them as they grow. They carry the bags about as they move around to feed on foliage. The caterpillars become full grown in August and early September. They attach their bags firmly to twigs by a band of silk. They then change to moths and the females deposit their eggs in the bags.

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

#### Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce plant problems. These include using resistant plant varieties, proper plant selection and placement, good aftercare and biological and/or mechanical controls. As a last resort, after all other remedies have been explored, a pesticide\* that is least toxic to people and natural predators, can be considered. Prior to using any pesticides, plants should always be monitored for the degree of infestation and a sensible control measure considered.

\* A pesticide is a substance that kills, or attempts to kill, a particular pest, e.g. **insecticide**, **fungicide**, **herbicide**, etc.



### Control

Hand pick and destroy when first observed. If very heavy populations exist, it may be necessary to use an insecticide. Chemical pesticides may be available. If you choose to use a chemical pesticide, contact your local Cooperative Extension office for specific recommendations. Spray infested plants once between 600-900 GDD (early to mid-June, when Mountain Laurel blooms) when the young bagworms hatch from the old cases and start to feed. You may expect good control by thorough spraying during July if you didn't notice the bagworms when they first hatched. Thorough coverage of foliage with pesticide is required. Whenever you use a pesticide, always read the label and follow the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.