

Stan Rachesky, U. of I. Area Extension Entomologist.

## INCHWORMS

Inchworms — the current scourge of the north shore of Chicago. This worm, also called a measuring worm or spanworm, is now feeding on most of the foliage of various deciduous trees and often causes serious defoliation. There are some 1,200 known different species in the U.S. and Canada.

They acquire their name by the way they inch along when moving. Movement is accomplished by placing the posterior end of the body up near the anterior end thus moving along in a looping fashion. Many Inchworms, when disturbed, stand nearly erect on their posterior prolegs and remain motionless, resembling small twigs.

The adult moths are mostly small, delicate, and slender-bodied. The wings are usually broad and often marked with five wavy lines. The two sexes are often different in color and in a few species the females are wingless. This group of moths is chiefly nocturnal and are attracted to lights.

Control can be accomplished by spraying your trees and shrubs with either carbaryl (sevin) or lead arsenate when the worms are first seen or feeding.

Follow label directions for correct amount of insecticide to use.

> Very truly yours, Stanley Rachesky Area Adviser–Pesticides Extension Entomologist

#### LATE NOTES:

Several courses between Glencoe and Evanston were severely hit by inch worm, completely defoliating many trees. Some clubs sprayed trees with power sprayers. Skokie C. C. trees were sprayed two times by helicopter, resulting in a 100% kill of the insects. Economy does not consist in saving coal, but in using the time whilst it burns.

If at first you don't succeed, you'll get a lot of unsolicited advice.



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