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## SYCAMORE AND WALNUT TREE INSECTS

by Stanley Rachesky  
Entomologist, University of Illinois

Many landscapes contain Sycamore and Walnut trees. Insects can be a very real cause for concern for those responsible for the well-being of their trees. Following is a discussion of the insects that may plague these kinds of trees:

The **sycamore lace bug** is probably the most common insect pest of sycamore. They are plant-sucking insects that feed voraciously on the under sides of the leaves causing the foliage to turn pale green and dry. For control treat with malathion or sevin (carbaryl) usually in late May or early June.

The most common leaf eater found on sycamore is the **bagworm**. As their name implies the larvae builds a tough little bag with silken thread and small bits of foliage off the host tree or shrub. This is why the bag will look different on one plant than the other. Sprays applied in late summer after the larvae end their feeding or during the winter months are not effective. Reducing infestations at this time can only be accomplished by hand picking the bags and then burning them. Sprays of either sevin (carbaryl), malathion, or diazinon applied about mid-June should be applied to obtain chemical control. Sprays applied later are much less effective.

The **walnut caterpillar** is large and black with gray hairs and is considered this tree's main leaf chomping pest. A strange occurrence is that it is attracted to isolated trees. Butternut, hickory, oak, honey locust and the old willow also makes good eating for this voracious little feeder. When the caterpillar reaches about 2 inches long, they go south for the winter by leaving the trees and living in the soil. The adult brownish moths, emerge early in the summer. Control can be accomplished by treating these leaf feeders with sevin as early as feeding is seen.

The **black walnut curculio** is a reddish brown little weevil that feeds on the tender shoots and delicious foliage of walnut in the early spring. A indication that this pest is present causes the nuts to drop when they're only half grown.

Parasites usually keep this pest under control. However, sevin can be sprayed on the new foliage for added protection.

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