

Insect Pests

by Stanley Rachesky
Entomologist — University of Illinois

Paper bags; baggy clothes; old bags; what's your bag? There are all different types of bags! But — did you ever hear of a bagworm? During the winter and spring, spindle-shaped bags about 1-2 inches long may be hanging from trees and shrubs in the yard. In the summer, the bags are smaller and the little black worm inside moves them from place to place on the tree or shrub.

The bags contain the eggs that will produce a brood of worms this summer. In the northern area of Illinois, the eggs will hatch the latter part of June. So, there is still time in this area to pick the bags from last year off the trees and burn them. When the little worm leaves the mother bag, it immediately begins to feed on nearby foliage and begins to construct his bag with silken threads and bits of foliage taken from the host plant. Therefore, the bags found on maple trees will look different from those found on a honey locust. The bags enlarge to fit the quickly growing worm, and everywhere the worm goes, he takes his house — the bag.

In late summer the worms pupate (cocoon stage or resting state of the insect's development), and then emerge as an adult. The wingless and almost legless adult females stay in the bags (these females haven't heard about women's lib yet), while the males which have wings, leave the bags, fly around and find another bag for mating purposes. The female then lays about 500 eggs and dies. There is only one generation per year.

The bagworm is a defoliating insect. Bagworms found on deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the fall) will usually not cause the tree to die. However, a defoliated evergreen probably will succumb to the insects' voracious appetites.

In an attempt to control this insect, you must spray while the worms are small. The larger the worm, the harder it is to gain control. Sprays should be applied near the end of June. Once the worm stops feeding, spraying becomes ineffective. The University of Illinois recommends either carbaryl (Sevin), diazinon (Spectracide) or malathion for control.

Follow label directions carefully for application rates.

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your new and important job. I had reason to recall your excellent editorial this morning while on a consulting mission in the City of Baltimore. The "chief" wants all slopes mowed. I say, "let them attain the NATURAL look while my Penngift crownvetch is maturing."

I enclose a picture which carries no date. The participants are unmistakable. Can you pinpoint the date? Obviously we had played or recall the long puts that dropped?

In my semi-retirement I seem to keep busy. It has been 41 years since I left Nebr., came to the Lasker Estate (Midwest Turf Gardens) and squirted chemicals on weeds with the Bertucci's, the Dinelli's and others. I enjoyed all my Chicago contacts. My very best to everyone.

Sincerely,
Fred V. Grau
P. O. Box AA
College Park, Md. 20740
Phone: UNion 4-0090 (301)

Ray Gerber,
865 Hillside Ave.,
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Ray:

Just a late line to let you know how much I appreciate receiving The Bull Sheet. It's getting to be a good sized publication and before long it will be a magazine. It's a pleasure to read about how many of the familiar names are still active and to see some of their faces with a few more years in evidence but with healthy golf course complexion. When I first moved out here I applied for a job or two but it seemed the age wasn't exactly in my favor besides there wasn't much inclination to hire newcomers at that time. Since then I just decided to manure my own lawn and have a nice Tifway front yard and a fair stand in the back. I just dismantled the old Jake Pacer I brought out here and bought another mower with the Briggs S. engine. Reel types do the best job on hybrid Bermuda. That's enough shop talk. Warren Roseman and his wife stopped in for a few hours when they were out for the Tournament of Roses and football game, such as it was. I received my quarter century pin from GCSA just after the Convention. If I could have been there it would have been presented then. I also have a 1928 Midwest Card but never joined the National when they used to meet in the Hamilton Hotel. I have regretted not doing so since. Haven't played much golf as it is an effort to walk any distance. The driving range is about the right speed. Give my best regards to everybody and if any of you come out this way drop in. There might be a cold one or two. Keep up the good work and take care of yourself.

As ever,
Reuben H. Thode
1721 Reed Ave.,
San Diego, Cal. 92109

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