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## HOMEOWNER INSECT PROBLEMS

by Stanley Rachesky  
Entomologist - University of Illinois

*Tree borers* have begun feeding under the bark of trees. Check for sawdustlike frass being pushed out of holes in the bark. These holes may be on the trunk at ground level or higher, or even on the limbs. Some limbs may already have been killed, especially on birch trees.

Bronze birch borers usually first attack birch trees in the upper trunk and limbs. The infested areas will have uneven raised areas in the bark. The adult beetles will soon be emerging from the bark, leaving small D-shaped exit holes. These beetles will be laying eggs in the central part of the state beginning in late May. For control, thoroughly spray the infested limbs with a spray containing dimethoate (Cygon, De-Fend) using 1 quart of the 1-pound-per-gallon liquid concentrate per 100 gallons of water. Spray birch trees in central Illinois in late May and repeat again three weeks later. Apply the treatments one week earlier in the southern section and one week later in the northern section.

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flat-headed apple borers which may attack many species of shade trees, especially newly-set trees. Wrapping the trunk with heavy paper for two years after the trees are set will help protect them from borer attack.

*Leaf miners* should soon be appearing in the leaves of holly and hawthorn. These tiny worms tunnel between the upper and lower leaf surfaces leaving brown trails. Dimethoate (Cygon, De-Fend) applied as a spray will control holly leaf miner when the mines first appear. Add 1 cup of the 2-pounds-per-gallon liquid concentrate to 25 gallons of water, or 2 teaspoons per gallon, and apply thoroughly to the foliage. For hawthorn leaf miners, apply either malathion or diazinon as a spray to the foliage. Use 2 teaspoons of 57-percent malathion or 25-percent diazinon (Spectracide) per gallon of water, or 1 cup of either insecticide per 25 gallons of water. Wet the foliage thoroughly.

*Black vine weevil* grubs feed on the roots of yews (*Taxus*), causing the shrubs to turn pale and often killing them. The adult weevils, or snout beetles, emerge in late May and some feed on the foliage toward the center of the shrubs. As they feed, they cut notches out of the leaves or needles. The adults hide during the day and feed at night. For control, drench the infested yews with a spray containing chlordane. Add 1 quart to 100 gallons of water, or 2 teaspoons per gallon of water. Spray the foliage thoroughly, allowing the spray to run off onto the soil under the shrubs.

*Eastern tent caterpillars* are hatching, and small tents can be observed in the crotches of some limbs on trees—especially wild cherry. Infestations of this tree-defoliating caterpillar appear to be light at present.

Infestations of more than 10 *sod webworms* per square foot in lawns have been reported from Cook County. It is very unusual for these dusky, grey worms with rows of spots on each body segment to appear in damaging numbers during the spring. Sod webworms do pass the winter as larvae in silken cases on or near the soil surface. Usually, the population is reduced by disease, bird predation, and the winter weather. More of these webworms could have lived through the winter than normal. Control is not usually needed for the over-wintering larvae or the next generation hatching in June. At this time, we do not know how much of an area in the state may have webworms in damaging numbers.

If webworms are present and brown patches begin to appear, treatment is needed. Apply one of the following insecticides as a spray or granules: diazinon (Spectracide), carbaryl (Sevin), or chlorpyrifos (Dursban). Aspon can be applied as a spray only.

The Western Open Golf Tournament will be held at *Butler National Golf Club*, on June 26-29, 1975. *Edward Fischer*, one of our MAGCS directors, is Supt. at this fine club. The tournament received considerable publicity last year at the same club. I am sure it will receive even more favorable publicity this year because there has been many improvements made and the golf course is one year older.

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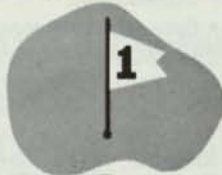
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