

Illinois Tree Pests

by Stanley Rachesky
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Trees are the largest living thing in Illinois. There are many millions of trees in Illinois that afford us great pleasure, especially during the summer. Illinois trees are troubled with a great variety of insects throughout the warmer weather:

Maple bladder galls are small wartlike growths on the upper surface of leaves of silver and soft maple. They are caused by mites. Control is very rarely necessary since little or no harm is done to the tree. If control is desired the spray, using Malathion, must be timed with the emergence of the new leaves as they unfold. Use at least 3 - 4 gallons of diluted spray per tree.

Now is a good time to pick off last year's **Bagworms** from evergreens or other tree species. Probably over half of these bags are filled with eggs that will hatch in 4 - 6 weeks. The more eggs that are destroyed the easier it will be to control your problem later.

Inchworms on the trees may or will be out shortly. This year the University of Illinois may be recommending two avenues of control. Sevin insecticide is currently the method of choice. Treat the trees to control the worms as soon as they appear. These insects will not kill the tree.

The second avenue of control is using a biological insecticide **Bacillus thuringiensis**. It will undergo final tests this spring in cooperation with the Municipal Foresters, Abbot Laboratories and the University of Illinois.

In a few weeks keep your eyes open for the formation of tents in the crotches of wild cherry, ornamental crabapple, plum, peach and apple trees. **Eastern tent caterpillars** will become active. Sevin does an excellent job of control.

Sawdust from **tree borers** in the trunks of trees and shrubs will be found on the bark or near the base of the trunk. Cygon 2E insecticide should be used in early June for control. Wrapping the trunks of newly set trees with heavy paper for two years or until the trees are growing vigorously will help prevent attacks by borers.

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