



Community Awareness

Contact Us

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 @cityofmelville

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Texture: a lot of hair-like structures (setae) which gives them a furry appearance.

How can I get more information?

If you would like more information please contact City Hall at 306.728.6840.

Sources:

- <http://environmentalsociety.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Tent-Caterpillars1.pdf?ts=1492442267656>
- <https://esterhazyonline.wordpress.com/2016/05/25/dealing-with-tent-caterpillars-q-a/>



TENT CATERPILLARS

Pest Management



Forest tent caterpillars

What are Tent Caterpillars?

Forest tent caterpillars are usually just over 2 inches (5cm) in length. They can be brown, black or a dark bluish green color. They often have colorful blue or yellow lines running longitudinally. Each section of the abdomen has a white spot on its backside.

Preventative Measures

- Keeping a tree healthy can minimize the damage done by a caterpillar outbreak. Remember to monitor for early signs of pest problems.
- Caterpillar eggs can be seen as large black masses on the branches of trees in the fall and winter months. Simply remove these masses from the tree in the fall to prevent the breakout of caterpillars in the following spring.

Tent caterpillar outbreaks happen every 10 to 15 years and last anywhere from three to six years.

Mechanical Control

Place buckets of water, $\frac{1}{4}$ filled with water beneath the tree (beneath the “tents”). These buckets will attract the caterpillars and they then drown in the water.



A mass of caterpillars clump together

The City of Melville does not control these pests as they typically don't impact the health of the trees. Homeowners interested in controlling them on their own can consult their local garden centre.

How long will they be around?

Caterpillars grow rapidly and usually complete their larval life cycle in seven to ten weeks. Around mid-June, they will crawl away from their natal tree and seek a protected place in plants, under leaves, or on structures to attach and spin their cocoons. The adult moths emerge about 7 to 10 days later.