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## **Fall Webworm**

As I look through the countryside while driving the county I have seen the emergence of fall webworms on many trees. Fall webworms are very unsightly and can be destructive to your trees.

Fall webworm caterpillars build large silky webs mainly in pecan trees. They can also be found on other types of trees. More than a hundred caterpillars may be found inside the web where they feed on leaves. Large infestations may cover the tree with webs causing severe defoliation.

Mature larvae are about 1 inch long, pale yellow or green, and covered with tufts of long white hairs. The adult is a white moth with dark spots on the wings. Female moths emerge in the spring and deposit several hundred eggs on the underside of tree leaves. There are two to four generations each year. The last or fall generation is generally the most damaging for us.

There are two or three methods that we can use when controlling webworms. One is to let nature take it's course. Many insects, parasites, and predators feed on the webworm reducing it's numbers. Insecticides are also available to kill the webworms. But, this is not an easy job. You need to use a high volume sprayer to penetrate chemicals into the silky web. Insecticides that can be used are Sevin 80S, Sevin 50W, Sevin XLR, or Malathion 57% EC. Another method that is used by a lot of old-timers is tying a cloth soaked in kerosene around a cane pole or long stick and burn the web itself. This requires special precautions and the homeowner must be very careful.

For more information call me at 903-473-2412.

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