

# A HEALTHY TREE is a HAPPY TREE

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### Bagworms

**Description:** Bagworms occur throughout North Carolina. They are usually found on conifers such as arborvitae, spruce, juniper, cedar, and Leyland cypress. The bags range in size from 1/4 inch to over 2 inches to accommodate the growing caterpillar inside.

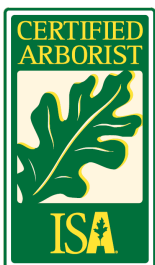


Bagworms hatch in late May and June. The newly hatched larvae spin down on silken threads and are blown about by the spring breezes. Upon reaching a suitable plant, the worm begins to spin its bag and as it grows, it incorporates some of the host plant foliage into the bag for camouflage. The bag is firmly attached by a sturdy silk band, which the bagworms usually wrap around a twig. During August and September, male moths emerge from their bags to mate. After mating, females lay their eggs inside the pupal cast skins and die.

**Symptoms:** The earliest signs of bagworm injury in evergreens are brown or stressed needles at the tips of branches. Heavy infestations of older bagworms may completely defoliate a tree or shrub. These plants can be severely stressed or even killed if control measures are not taken. Bagworms are especially damaging to conifers because destroyed foliage is not regenerated.

**Control:** Bagworm infestations on smaller trees and shrubs can be controlled by removing bags during the winter and early spring before egg hatch begins. If bags containing larvae are discarded on the ground, the larvae may return to host plants. Insecticides are most effective when applied during the early stages of bagworm development. For prevention of early-season damage, apply sprays from late May to mid-June.

Frady Tree Care takes great pride and passion to care for your trees. Trees are TREEMENDOUS renewable resources. They are valuable in respect to life and your landscape. We are here to serve your tree care needs by preserving and enhancing the quality of your property through tree care education and services.



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