

# A HEALTHY TREE is a HAPPY TREE

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### Fall Webworm

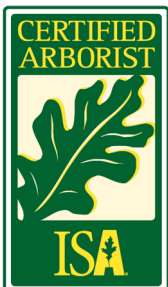
**Description:** A common native caterpillar occurs throughout the United States and southern Canada. As the name denotes, it is a web-maker. Larvae feed in colonies on foliage of hardwood trees and spin grayish silk webs around leaves in the process. The fall webworm is a widely distributed native pest of shade trees and shrubs and appears from late summer through early fall. It feeds on almost 90 species of deciduous trees commonly attacking hickory, walnut, birch, pecan, cherry, and crabapple. This species acts similarly to the eastern tent caterpillar, but the fall webworm constructs its nest over the end of the branch rather than at tree crotches. The large conspicuous webs contain caterpillars, dead partially eaten leaves, and fecal droppings.



Fall webworm moths are medium sized (1.2-1.5 inches) snow white insects with black spots. Tiny, round, yellow eggs are laid in masses of several hundred on the undersides of leaves. As the eggs are laid, hairs from the body of the moth stick to them and obscure and protect them. Tiny, hairy caterpillars hatch and grow into pale to dark caterpillars about 1.5 inches long that are covered with long hairs. One race of fall webworms has black head and the other has rusty-orange heads. The pupa is dark brown and cylindrical and about 0.5 inch long. The pupa is surrounded by an almost transparent cocoon that has hairs mixed in.

**Control:** Fall webworms can be easily destroyed or disrupted by pulling down the webs and destroying the caterpillars if the webs are within reach of a stick or pole. This also exposes caterpillars to bird and wasp predation. If the webs are beyond easy reach and control is deemed desirable, a trombone sprayer or power sprayer may be able to reach higher in a tree. Beyond that, the professionals at Frady Tree Care.

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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