



BATTLING BAGWORMS ON EVERGREEN TREES

The curious bagworms have emerged around our subdivision; a photo of a bag containing a worm is above. These worms are actually in the moth family. They can aggressively destroy over 100 varieties of trees, but they favor evergreen trees like the beautiful arbor vitae trees that some of our residents have in their yards. The evergreens that they infest and chew up take years to recover, and might never recover to their full shape and beauty.

One resident has had success in combatting bagworms by using Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew, insecticide/pesticide concentrate. It's suitable for organic gardens and the manufacturer states on the product label that it's "safe for use around people and pets." It gets mixed with water in a large sprayer bottle and then is simply sprayed all over the infested tree. The bagworms ingest the product as they consume tree vegetation—end of story!

Mature bagworms have voracious appetites, and they crawl around and quickly consume tree foliage. So, the trees must be treated with the "Dead Bug Brew: as quickly as possible after the short black bagworms appear and start building their cocoons using tree material. There are several sources for Captain Jack's product; one of them is Amazon.com. They want about \$17 for a 16-ounce bottle of the concentrate; they also sell a 32-ounce size for \$30.

By the way, bagworm eggs that get fertilized by the male moths are inside the cocoons that hang on the trees. If there are just a few bagworms, it MIGHT be equally effective to tediously pluck them all off so as to prevent damage and also eliminate next season's eggs. Also, there's a separate method to treat the ground beneath trees so that the bagworms are poisoned before they can do their damage; however, that treatment involves some special timing and hazardous products that are best handled by landscape professionals.