

Reminder



The cankerworms can “balloon” to other nearby trees. They are very light and can be blown from one tree to another. This is why it is important for neighbors to organize or “band together” when banding!

For more information on how you can become involved, visit the City/County website at <http://cankerworm.charmeck.org>



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Let's Band Together

How you can help control the fall cankerworm population





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What is the fall cankerworm?

The fall cankerworm (*Alsophila pometaria*) is an insect native to North America. It eats the leaves off of many kinds of hardwood trees in the spring. This weakens the trees and can cause them to die.

Does Charlotte have a fall cankerworm problem?

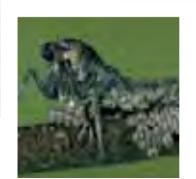
For the past twenty years, the cankerworm population in Charlotte has continued to grow. Natural controls have not been adequate to bring the cankerworms to a level that isn't harmful to our tree canopy. Aerial spraying in 1992, 1998 and 2008, and other natural factors reduced the population for several years but the numbers have continued to grow each year. The City started a banding program on street trees, while requesting homeowners to cooperate in 1990. The banding efforts have continued for over 20 years. Entomologists cannot explain why the cankerworm populations continue to increase but the city's large concentration of old willow oaks may promote the infestation. Today the cankerworm population affects all of the Charlotte area.

What effect will tree banding have on the cankerworms?

Tree banding in November and December is an effective way of controlling the cankerworm. By applying a glue barrier to the tree trunk, the wingless cankerworm moths are trapped as they climb the tree. For best results, trees should not be banded before the third week of November.

How can I help control the fall cankerworm population?

The City of Charlotte is asking citizens to help control the cankerworm population by banding trees in their communities. To band a tree, the following materials are necessary and can be purchased at most hardware and garden stores: staples, staple gun, disposable elbow length gloves, roofing felt, cotton batting or fiberglass insulation, Tanglefoot™ (glue) and a putty knife. For small trees, you can substitute electrical tape for the staples. Do not use nails.



How to band a tree

- Step 1** Install a two inch strip of cotton or insulation around the tree at least three feet from the ground and the lowest limb.
- Step 2** Position a band of roofing felt over the strip and attach it to the trees with the staple gun. Avoid using staples on small, young or thin barked trees. Instead use electrical tape to hold the bands.
- Step 3** Using disposable gloves and a putty knife, put a film of Tanglefoot™(glue) directly on the band, approximately 1/8" thick.

In order to be effective, all trees need to be banded. The worms feed on all types of trees. Large trees (taller than a two story house) are the main focus of banding. Small trees can also be banded.

The glue Tanglefoot™ should be applied after most of the leaves have fallen. If the trap becomes clogged with leaves or insects, you should clean it, renew the Tanglefoot™ or install a new trap. The bands can be removed during the first week of February.