

START UP THE BAND

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The City of Charlotte is asking citizens to help control the cankerworm population by banding trees in their communities. Remember that 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!

Neighborhood organizations can apply for up to \$3,000 to assist with tree banding in their community to help control cankerworms and protect their trees.

Visit cankermom.charmeck.org for details.

FIERY FRIEND

The Fiery Searcher Beetle (*Calosoma scrutator*) likes to feast on cankerworms and could possibly help control infestations in the future. If you see this beetle around your home, consider it a friend and ally in the fight against cankerworms.



For more information on how you can become involved, visit CANKERWORM.CHARMECK.ORG

Landscaping Management
701 Tuckaseegee Road
Charlotte, NC 28208

CHARLOTTE



LET'S BAND TOGETHER

HOW YOU CAN HELP CONTROL THE FALL CANKERWORM POPULATION




CHARLOTTE.



WHAT IS THE 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. The trees need to use a lot of energy to produce more leaves. The extra effort weakens the tree and makes it susceptible to other threats, like drought or insects.



DOES CHARLOTTE HAVE A PROBLEM?

For the past 30 years, Charlotte's cankerworm population has continued to grow, due in part to the city's large concentration of old willow oaks. Entomologists cannot explain it, but natural controls haven't been adequate to bring the cankerworms to a level that isn't harmful to our tree canopy. Since 1990, the City has implemented a banding program for street trees while also encouraging homeowners to band.



WHAT EFFECT WILL BANDING HAVE?

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 TO BAND A TREE

In order to be effective, all deciduous trees need to be banded. The worms feed on most types of trees, except for evergreen trees such as pines, magnolias, and hollies. Large trees (taller than a two-story house) are the main focus of banding. Small trees can also be banded. Bands should not be removed until the last week in April.

Visit cankermorph.charmeck.org to find a list of local retailers that carry banding supplies.

- 1 Choose a banding method. The City Arborist recommends Bug Barrier, Catchmaster, Stik-N-Stop and Tanglefoot. All are available locally.
- 2 Position your band about four and a half feet up the trunk. Avoid using staples on small, young or thin barked trees. Instead use electrical tape to hold the bands. Staples on larger trees are fine. Do not use nails on any tree.
- 3 Maintain your band throughout the winter. Watch to make sure leaves do not clog the trap or that squirrels haven't damaged it.
- 4 Be sure to remove the bands by the end of April. If bands are left on, moisture behind the band may weaken the trunk, allowing insects easier access to the tree.