



ARBORSCAPES

Tree Management • Plant Health Care
Construction Preservation

Webworms

The Webworm, or (*Hyphantria cunea*), is a moth that is known for its larval stage, where it appears as a caterpillar that spins a webbed nest at the ends of branches on many large shade and ornamental trees. These caterpillars emerge toward the middle/end of summer and persist through early fall, overwintering pupae through the winter and spring seasons. As the caterpillars feed, the nests tend to enlarge. Many deciduous trees are common hosts including hickory, walnut, birch, redbud, cherry, and crabapple.

While not usually dangerous to tree health, webworms can decrease the aesthetic value of trees when left unmanaged and can eventually cause decline leading to a shorter life span in hosts.

Webworms can be managed mechanically, by pruning off affected limbs and physically removing the nests. They can be more effectively managed through responsible application of insecticides when the nests begin to visibly form.



Pictured: A webworm nest spun at the end of shade tree branch.