

OAKWORM

WHAT IS THE THREAT:

Oakworms (caterpillars) are the larvae of moths, many of which feed on oak trees. Important species include the California oakworm and Tussock moth. Both pests feed in the spring on young oak leaves but the California oakworm can have up to 3 generations and feed until fall.

WHERE IS THE THREAT:

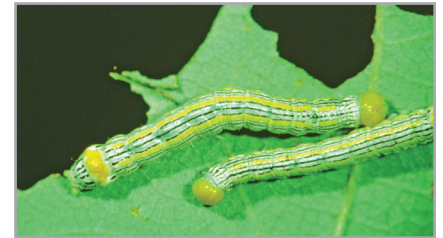
Both caterpillar pests occur in abundance in California on Coast Live oak, blue oak and valley oak.

SYMPTOMS:

When caterpillars are young they skeletonize the leaves and as they mature will consume the entire leaf. As these pests occur high up in the canopy, fecal pellets or frass may be the first indication of an outbreak. Over time, trees become stressed from yearly defoliation and can lose entire branches.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

In areas of previous infestation, an early spring trunk injection with TREE-äge® will provide up to two years of protection. However, if outbreaks are in progress, an application of ACE-jet provides a quick knockdown for up to 60 days but may not extend the entire season. A sequential treatment with TREE-äge® will control the later season caterpillars.



Larva(e)



2 egg masses on leaf



Infestation

All images taken by: Cover Photo: USDA Forest Service - Northeastern Area , USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org; Larva: A. Steven Munson, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org; Larva(e): Larva(e) Egg masses: James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org; Infestation: Erich G. Vallery, USDA Forest Service - SRS-4552, Bugwood.org