

## Bagworms

Bagworms are caterpillars (larvae of moths) that live inside a spindle-shaped bag. The bag, 1-2 inches long, is made of unbelievably tough silk and bits of leaves and twigs from the host plant.. The bags may become 2 inches long and are dragged with them wherever they go, like mobile homes.



borvitae, cedar, hemlock, junipers, cypress, and pine. Larvae may eat the buds on the plants causing branch dieback and open, dead areas. Excessive defoliation of the host plant may cause death of the entire plant during the following season. Moderate defoliation is unsightly.

The silk used to attach their bags to the host plant may girdle the branch as it grows, causing dead branches years later. Be sure to remove this band when removing bags from a plant.

### Control:

Bagworms are difficult to control because they may go unnoticed. There are few known parasites and predators and they are protected by their bags. Light infestations may be cut off and the bags destroyed. **TIMING OF CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS IS CRITICAL.** Applications should be made while the larvae are young, during mid to late June. The mature larvae are not easily killed.

### Life Cycle:

The eggs overwinter in the bag and hatch in late spring. As they hatch, they crawl out of the bottom of the bag and spin down on a strand of silk. The larvae on a string are often picked up by wind and ballooned to nearby plants. When a suitable host is found, the young larvae immediately begin to feed and construct their bags or homes. As the caterpillars grow, the bag enlarges.

Full-grown larvae are 3/4-1 inch long, dark brown with white to yellow heads and a spotted thorax.

After pupation (late summer), the males emerge as black moths with furry bodies, feathered antennae, and clear wings with a span of almost 1 inch.

The female is a wingless moth that never leaves the bag. She is fertilized by the male, lays 500 to 1,000 eggs inside the bag and dies. There is one generation a year.

### Damage:

Bagworms prefer to feed on evergreens such as ar-

### CHEMICALS RECOMMENDED:

- Abamectin (Mauget Abacide)
- Bifenthrin (Talstar)
- Acephate (Orthene)
- Carbaryl (Sevin)



**ROANOKE**  
101 MADISON AVE.  
ROANOKE, VA 24016  
**540-343-2428**

**The Turf Store**   
and gardening

[www.myturfandgardeningstore.com](http://www.myturfandgardeningstore.com)

**RICHMOND**  
12115 RIDGEFIELD PKWY.  
RICHMOND, VA 23233  
**804-754-8873**