

County Agent News  
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### More Insects



I have had many calls about pale green caterpillars dropping out of trees on thin strands and also many calls about blue or black caterpillars with brown striped and white spots. The green ones are canker worms and the other ones are. Both eat the leaves of a wide range of trees. Healthy trees can tolerate one year of complete defoliation from insects like these but they do set the tree back and leave it weaker. Trees which are already weak and under stress from previous weather issues, planting to deep, root disturbance or previous defoliation can be severely injured by these pests. Early treatment with an organic Bt product can be effective but most of the caterpillars I have seen are close to their maximum size and a Bt product would not kill them quickly enough to stop further damage. Insecticidal soaps can still be effective but the trees would have to be very well soaked to achieve the best coverage. While almost any insecticide labeled for ornamental use will kill these caterpillars, products containing a pyrethrin based insecticide like cyfluthrin (Tempo or a similar generic brand) offer very quick knockdown and some residual while also being safer for humans and pets than older products like malathion.



Figure 2. Eastern tent caterpillar (P. Beauzay, NDSU Ext. Entomology)

### Burke County Fair

The 100<sup>th</sup> Burke County Fair is almost here! Fair dates are June 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. Entry of exhibits and a moonlight trail ride take place on Thursday June 23<sup>rd</sup> prior to the official start of the fair. Activity at the fairgrounds actually started several weeks ago with some work on the racetrack. June 10<sup>th</sup> is fairgrounds cleanup and repair day. We will be fixing fence, painting, putting up new steps to the grandstand “crow’s nest” and other general repairs. If you would like to help us out by mowing, grass trimming, or other maintenance activities your help will be appreciated. Plans are to start work approximately 4:00 pm on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

