

### Too Late to Spray for Bagworms

Bagworms can cause a great deal of damage during the last few weeks of feeding, and gardeners may be tempted to spray for them now. But late-August sprays are totally ineffective. Bagworms can be found on numerous trees and shrubs but especially junipers and arbovitae.

In Kansas, bagworms normally finish feeding and close their bags during mid-August. After that, insecticides are ineffective because they cannot reach the pest. Each bag normally contains 300 to 1,000 eggs. Egg hatch does not occur until the next spring, usually around the end of May in Kansas.

Insecticide sprays are more likely to be effective when the bagworms are small. During most years, spraying about June 15 will provide good control. Commonly used pesticides include *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, Thuricide), acephate, cyfluthrin, permethrin, malathion and Sevin. Don't forget that insecticides are not the only means of control. Hand picking and destroying the bags are effective any time when the bags are large enough to be picked.

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