

Winter Moth Caterpillar Affecting Wellesley Trees

In Wellesley and throughout eastern Massachusetts the winter moth caterpillar has been defoliating trees this spring. Perhaps the only good thing about this pest is it will stop feeding in June and allow your tree a chance to possibly re-grow new leaves. Still, your tree has been severely stressed and will benefit from extra attention during the rest of the summer growing season and into the fall, until the leaves start to turn color and drop off.

During this time make sure your tree gets watered to help the recovery process. Also, you should not fertilize your trees during this time. We recommend you consult with an arborist to inspect any heavily damaged trees and develop a treatment plan to protect your trees during next spring's winter moth feeding cycle.

You can call (508) 653-3320 or go on line to www.certifiedtreeandlawn.org to find a certified arborist. To find more information about the winter moth and other landscape pests, go to www.umassgreeninfo.org for pictures, fact sheets and updates.

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