

Problem: Greenstriped Mapleworm - *Dryocampa rubicunda*



Hosts: Primarily red and silver maples but may attack other maples, boxelder, and oak.

Description: This is a large yellow-green caterpillar with a red head. It has a pair of black "horns" just back of the head. Heavy infestations in July or August may defoliate the tree. The young larvae are gregarious and skeletonize leaves of the host plant. As they mature, the larvae become more independent and consume entire leaves, leaving only the midrib.

These insects overwinter as pupae in the soil beneath host trees. Adult moths emerge in May and the females lay eggs on the undersides of leaves. There are two generations per year.

Recommendations: Apply insecticides when caterpillars appear in July or August if deemed economically feasible. Biological insecticides containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel and Thuricide) and spinosad (Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew, Monterey Garden Insect Spray, Natural Guard Spinosad) are effective since these are Lepidopterous insects. The adult form of Lepidopterous insects are either a moth or butterfly. Conventional insecticides are also effective.

References:

1. [Caterpillars in Your Yard and Garden](#), page 5, University of Missouri Extension, IPM1019
2. [Greenstriped Mapleworm](#), University of Tennessee Extension, SP290-Y

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