

Problem: Mimosa Webworm - *Homadaula anisocentra*



Hosts: Mimosa and Honeylocust (Sunburst appears most susceptible while Moraine, Shademaster and Imperial more resistant but can still be attacked).

Description: Mimosa webworm overwinters inside of cocoons in the pupal stage. These cocoons are normally found in the litter under the tree or sheltered inside crevices in the bark. Adults emerge in late May to early June. The adults are silvery-gray moths with small black spots on the wings. Mated females lay their eggs on leaves of the host over a period of several weeks. Damage is caused by the larval stage which mats leaves together with webbing and uses this as a nest. These nests are normally found on the tips of branches and appear as brown areas from a distance. Closer inspection will reveal the white webbing. Mature larvae are ½ inch long and light green to dark brown and sport 5 longitudinal white stripes. Mimosa webworm can severely defoliate trees. First generation larvae reach maturity toward the latter part of July to early August. Second generation larvae are active in late August to early September. However, generations may overlap so that larvae may be found from June through September.

Recommendations: Control the larvae by spraying the leaves with acephate, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, Thuricide), Spinosad (Conserve, Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew, Monterey Garden Insect Spray), bifenthrin (Bug Blaster II), carbaryl (Sevin), cyfluthrin (Bayer Vegetable & Garden Insect Spray), cyhalothrin (Scimitar, Spectracide Triazicide) and permethrin (numerous trade names). The biorational insecticides *Bacillus thuringiensis* and spinosad are preferred as they do not harm natural predators. Sprays applied in late May to early June when Sweet Mockorange is in full bloom are most effective. Because there is overlapping of generations, repeat applications may be needed.

References:

1. [Mimosa Webworm](#), E-11-W, Purdue University
2. Life Histories of Common Insects, Mites and Nematodes Infesting Ornamental Plants in Missouri, pg. F-8, Missouri Department of Agriculture

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