

TREE NEWS

JUNE 2025

YOU CAN USE

BE ON THE LOOKOUT: BAGWORMS

Do you have any cedar trees that look vandalized in your neighborhood? If so, take a closer look for the culprit and call an Arborist!



NAME: *Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis*

ALIAS: common bagworm
eastern bagworm
common basketworm

STATUS: U.S. native

LAST SEEN: Hanging around

DESCRIPTION:

Gregarious, leaf-feeding caterpillars in the Psychidae family that form protective tear-drop shaped silk bags up to 2 inches long, camouflaged with leaves, bark, and lichen.

LIFE CYCLE:

- Eggs hatch from late April through mid-May.
- Caterpillars grow feeding on plant leaves until pupating into adult moths from August — September.
- Male moths exit their protective bags from September — October in search of females who remain in their bags to lay next years eggs. Each female can lay up to 300 eggs!

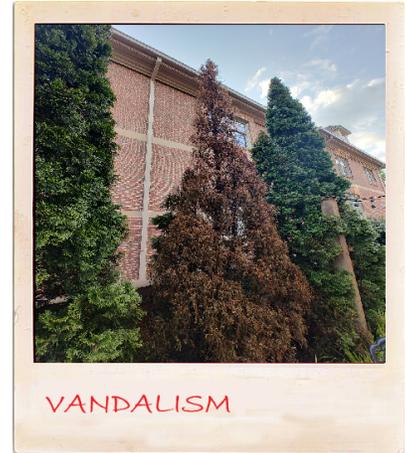
M/O AND VICTIMS:

- Leaf defoliators
- Most commonly found on evergreen conifers (Juniper, Pine, Spruce, Arborvitae, etc.). Also observed on bald cypress, maple, oak, and cherry laurel.

CONTROLS:

- Manual removal of bags during the winter.
- Bt sprays on actively feeding caterpillars until mid-June
- Bt sprays become less effective as they grow larger.
- Permethrin or Bifenthrin Sprays are more effective (from May through early August) but will likely harm beneficial insects.

SEPARATE NOTE: The Science of the Trails survey on urban green spaces conducted by UT Chattanooga and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is open. [You can participate online.](#)



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