

## Fall Webworm

Fall Webworm is a caterpillar pest of over 88 different plants. It does not attack conifers, only broadleaf plants where they eat the best parts of the leaf, leaving the veins (see bottom image  $\checkmark$ ) The larvae build unsightly webs for protection on the outer most tips of branches (see image 2nd from the bottom  $\checkmark$ ).

Fall Webworm winter over as pupae. In the spring the adults emerge, mate and deposit eggs. The female will lay up to 600 eggs, these soon hatch out into larvae. Adults are a white moth, sometimes with markings on the wings (see two images  $\rightarrow$ ).

Two forms of larvae exist; black-headed (see top image  $\nearrow$ ), these hatch out earlier in the season and are more common or redheaded (see lower image  $\searrow$ ) these hatch out a little later and prefer pecan trees. The larvae go through several molts before falling to the ground to pulpate. Egg to adult is as little as 50 days. In the north, 2 generations per year, up to 4 in the south.

## **Control**

When trying to control Fall Webworm it is important to get the chemical you use into contact with either the worms themselves or on the leaves they are feeding on. Many times this is difficult because the larvae are protected by the webs they create. To help with this, the addition of *Hi-Yield Spreader Sticker* is almost **mandatory**. *HY Spreader Sticker* will help to penetrate the sticky web and help it stick to the leaf for a longer lasting residue.

Natural Guard Spinosad is the BEST choice of product for Fall Webworm. This is a natural caterpillar killer that is translaminar so it will last the longest and is very low impact on beneficial insects. Make at least two applications 7 to 10 days apart. NG Spinosad is now OMRI Listed.

Natural Guard Caterpillar Killer Spray, formerly Hi-Yield Thuricide is another natural insecticide. It contains Bt a bacteria, the downfall of NG Caterpillar Killer, is the residue is measured in hours so you have to repeat more often. Apply and make your second application 5 to 7 days later. repeat immediately after rain.

For hard chemistry, *Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Bifenthrin 2.4* is the best choice. It will leave the longest residue and offers something a little more broad spectrum. As with the other products repeat applications may be required at 7 to 10 day















