





Technical Bulletin for: Forest Tent Caterpillar

Malacosoma disstria (Hübner) • Lepodoptera Lasiocampidae • MALDIS



DISTRIBUTION	Found throughout most of the United States and Canada, however more prevalent east of the Mississippi.
HOSTS	Oaks and gum are primary hosts. Other common or occasional hosts in the South include basswood, cherry and plum. In the northern and western United States and Canada, trembling aspen is the preferred host.
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	The adult moth is tan and has a broad brown band across the front wings.
LARVAE	Dark-gray to brownish-black body color, highlighted by broad, pale-blue lines and thin, broken yellow lines extending along each side. Mature larvae are 50 to 64 mm in length.
EGGS	New egg masses are ½-inch long and covered with glossy, dark brown, glue-like material that protects the eggs during winter.
LIFE HISTORY	After mating, the female moth lays eggs in ½-inch long clusters wrapped around a twig. Each female lays several clusters of 150 to 200 eggs by early July. Eggs hatch in from mid-April to mid-May. The caterpillars have five growth stages before pupating, each lasting seven to ten days. Adult moths emerge and lay eggs in late June into early July.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENT, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	ZE-5,7-12OH and ZE-5,7-12Ald on gray rubber septa. Field life: four (4) weeks. 
TRAP TO USE	Plastic or Paper Delta Trap 
MONITORING STRATEGY	Check with your local forester for information.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Healthy trees can often withstand even severe pest outbreaks, so planting and managing for tree species that are well suited to your land and climate will help. It is also a good idea to learn from history.

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