

Burlapping



Help protect your tree from spongy moth caterpillars

Place a burlap band around its trunk

WHY?

A burlap band provides a place for caterpillars to escape the heat of the day while also making them more accessible to scrape and remove. Be sure to check for caterpillars between and under the burlap layers on a regular basis.

While wearing gloves, scrape off or hand-pick the trapped caterpillars into a water/soap mixture and let them soak for a minimum of 48 hours. Stir the mixture occasionally to ensure complete coverage.

WHEN?

Burlap bands can be applied when caterpillars begin to hatch from egg masses in early May. As caterpillars feed and grow, they become easier to hand-pick or scrape from the burlap band. Keep the burlap band on until mid-August and continue to check your band for caterpillars and pupae (cocoons) throughout the summer.

HOW TO USE:



1. Place burlap so that one layer is fully wrapped around the tree.

2. Tie a rope in the middle of the burlap.

3. Fold the top section of the burlap over the string.

4. Monitor and remove caterpillars from the undersides of the burlap daily, or every other day.

DON'T FORGET!

- Scrape off caterpillars into a water/soap mixture.
- Do not scrape caterpillars onto the ground- they will simply climb back up into the burlap band.
- Let the caterpillars soak in the soapy mixture for a minimum of 48 hours.
- Stir the mixture occasionally to ensure complete coverage.
- Dispose of caterpillars in the garbage, and the soapy water accordingly.

For more information about managing the spongy moth on your property, visit caledon.ca/spongy