

M.D. of Bonnyville Media Release June 6, 2014

Tent Caterpillars Moving Into the M.D. of Bonnyville

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Janice Boden, is asking residents to keep a lookout for tent caterpillars.

"Our weed inspectors have found a few infested trees around the M.D. and area," Boden said. "In fact, one of the trees outside of the M.D.'s Main Administration Office has become home to these pests."

There are three types of tent caterpillars – Forest, Eastern and Western. The type that has been found in our area is the Forest variation. Tent caterpillars rarely kill the infested tree, but they often do eat all of the leaves off of it, which can open up the tree to other diseases.

Boden said she's not sure how bad the infestation is. She urges residents to use non-chemical methods to help get rid of these pests.

One recommended method is to clip and destroy the tent and caterpillars. The best time to catch the caterpillars in their tents is in the early morning, late evening or on cool, rainy days.

M.D. Weed Inspectors also recommend wrapping a wide band of a sticky substance (Tanglefoot) around the affected tree at chest height. This will work much the same as flypaper. There are also organic insecticides containing *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which work when larvae feast on leaves that have been treated.

For more information on tent caterpillars, see the Government of Canada webpage at <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/environment-environnement/pesticides/tent-livreeamerique-eng.php>.

Photos are also attached.

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