

Check Landscape Plants for Bagworms

Mary Jane Frogge
Extension Associate, Lancaster County

This spring, it was easy to see bagworms from last year hanging in trees and shrubs. Now that trees are leafed out, it is hard to notice them, but do not assume they are not there. Bagworm larvae hatched in late May and have been feeding on plant material for over a month. They are about half of their mature size. Take a walk through your landscape or windbreak and check all your landscape plants, especially spruce and junipers.

If you find an outbreak of bagworms, chemical control may be needed. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) is available at nurseries and garden centers as Dipel or Thuricide. Other insecticides currently labeled for bagworm control include acephate, carbaryl, cyfluthrin, malathion and permethrin. Be sure to read and follow all label directions. If you have a large infestation in your evergreen trees or shrubs, do not delay in controlling the bagworms.

Feeding by mature caterpillars slows in August before pupation into adults, so chemical control in late summer and fall is not effective. By that time, your valuable landscape plants or windbreak are already severely damaged by the maturing bagworms.



Bagworm size in mid-July on a blue spruce (above) and cedar (below) tree.



Photos by Vicki Jedlicka, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County

GARDEN GUIDE

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

Mary Jane Frogge, Extension Associate, Lancaster County

Many plants are easily propagated by layering in July. Verbenas, euonymus, English ivy and climbing roses are a few plants that will root if the stems are fastened down and covered with soil.

For fall harvest of lettuce, radish, carrots, beets, turnips, kale and spinach, sow seeds in late July to early August.

Continue to make successive plantings of crops like beans and sweet corn to provide a continuous harvest until fall. A small garden will produce a large quantity of vegetables if replanting is done throughout the summer.

Check the soil moisture of container-grown vegetables and flowers daily. As the temperature rises, some plants may need water twice a day.

In July, a garden needs one inch of rain or water each week. Early morning is the best time to water. Evening watering is less desirable because plant leaves that remain wet through the night are more susceptible to fungus diseases. Mulch plants to reduce water losses and improve yields.

A brown or grayish cast over a lawn can be caused by dull or improperly adjusted mower blades that shred grass rather than cut it.

Store pesticides in a safe place in their original containers, away from children and pets. Use pesticides carefully in your garden. Read the labels and follow the directions. The warnings and precautions are for your protection.

Certain pesticides have a waiting period of several days between the time of the last spray and harvest. Read and follow directions on all labels before applying to your vegetable crops. Wash all produce thoroughly before use.

Greener Town Grant Applications Due Aug. 31

Are you ready to make a change to beautify your community, neighborhood, school or fairgrounds? Now is the time to consider applying for a Greener Towns grant to help fund your project.

Greener Towns is a program coordinated by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) in partnership with the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, providing funding and design assistance for the development of community spaces statewide. The program's goal is to help communities plant trees and gardens that build soil, save energy, protect water and create wildlife habitat.

Who Can Apply?

Municipalities, city departments, schools or parent-teacher organizations, neighborhood associations, garden clubs, non-profit organizations and other community organizations. This program is not for home or commercial landscape projects, but could include the development or improvement of greenspaces along a street or trail, city park, golf course, school, library, courthouse, cemetery, fairground or other public community spaces.

Over the last 30 years, NSA has assisted more than 1,500 projects in over 250 communities.

Design assistance is available to help your dream for the community space become a reality. Together, NSA will help you transform the green space into a remarkable community addition that celebrates people and nature. They will help you develop a landscape plan that

Photos courtesy of Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org



Fireworks restaurant bioswale in Lincoln captures stormwater from adjacent parking lots and buildings absorbing excess runoff, filtering pollutants and creating habitat for birds and insects.

This project completely changed people's experience along this part of Antelope Bike Trail, acting as a catalyst for continued greenspace improvements along the trail.



Aldersgate Church rain garden in Lincoln collects rain during storms and prevents it from running off the landscape. This conserves water by allowing it to soak into the soil, prevents erosion and prevents runoff from carrying fertilizer or pesticides off-site. When completed, Aldersgate Gardens will serve as an example of sustainable landscaping and a nature-based playground.

The vision is for an intensively landscaped park with an abundance of plants for wildlife habitat which offers solace through nature for visitors.

fits your budget and comfort level, including a map of plant locations and a species list to present to nurseries, contractors and volunteers.

Guidelines and Application

Greener Towns can award \$1,000–\$20,000 to a project but

does require dollar-for-dollar matching funds through contributions, donations or volunteer time.

The application period for this year's grants opened June 1. Visit <http://Plantnebraska.org> and go to Community Landscapes > Project Funding > Greener Towns for more information and application forms.

Project Timeline

- June 1–Aug. 31, 2019: Application period.
- Dec. 31, 2019: Final design due.
- May–September 2020: Project installation.
- Dec. 31, 2020: Project completion deadline.

Weather Challenges

continued from page 3
for the middle part of the country — including Nebraska. The key difference is “cool and wet” during the summer means something completely different than in February. Cool and wet is not too bad for crop production and rangeland production, so long as it isn’t too cool and there is still plenty of sunlight. These conditions are predicted by forecasters due to the persistent wet pattern this spring, high soil moisture values in the region and the expected El Niño that is predicted to continue through the summer.

Even though El Niño conditions have a limited impact on our region in the summer, it tilts the odds towards wet and cool, which we already had plenty of this spring. Areas are always at risk for “flash” droughts during the summer season, so monitoring conditions is still necessary. As we move into the fall and winter, the potential for an El Niño will play a larger role in the forecasts.

Tips for Crop Production in a Wet and Cool Summer

- Monitor in-season nutrient levels due to potential losses.
- Check for rooting depth issues due to wet soils.
- Plan or schedule field applications in advance due to less field-work days.
- Plan for slowed crop maturity and delayed harvest.
- Monitor fields for late-season weeds due to slower crop canopy.
- Maintain soil residue cover to reduce higher erosion risk.
- Scout regularly for increased risk of crop diseases.