

Have you noticed caterpillars or defoliation on your trees? Installing a burlap trap can reduce caterpillars and prevent defoliation.

Spongy moth caterpillars are fully grown and noticeable on tree trunks by summer. Installing a burlap barrier band trap can reduce caterpillars on trees. As caterpillars naturally move down tree trunks, they congregate on the burlap banding.

How to install the burlap:

1. Loosely wrap and secure a piece of burlap cloth around the stem(s) of your tree.



2. Secure the burlap using twine/rope around the center or slightly below the center of the burlap.



3. Fold the burlap cloth down over the twine/rope so there is an underhang of 6-8 inches (15-20 cm). The caterpillars will crawl underneath the longer part of the burlap to seek shelter during the day between the layers of cloth.



4. Check the trap by lifting the overhanging burlap cloth every afternoon when the temperature starts to cool down and collect any hiding caterpillars. Remove the collected caterpillars by putting them in a bucket of water with several drops of liquid dishwashing detergent for at least 24 hours which can then be disposed of in the City's curbside collection.



Caution: the caterpillars have long hairs that can cause skin irritation, so it is recommended to wear gloves.

Remember to remove the burlap from the tree after the caterpillars have stopped feeding for the season (typically mid July to August).

For more information, visit ottawa.ca/spongymoth.