

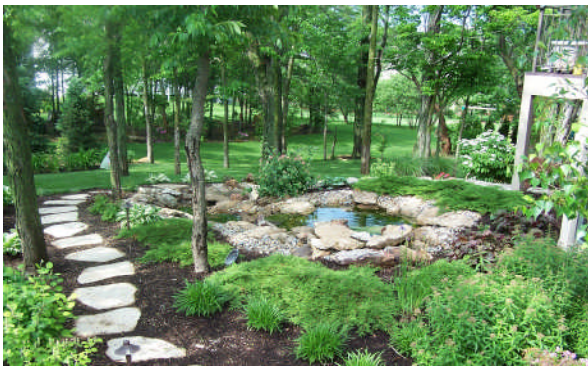
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- Palm Trees

**DOCTOR'S LAWN &  
LANDSCAPE, INC.**

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**DOCTOR'S LAWN & LANDSCAPE, INC.**

**GUIDE TO  
BAGWORMS**

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# DOCTOR'S—YOUR FULL SERVICE LAWN AND LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

SUPPLIES NEEDED: LIQUID SEVIN, MALATHION

## BAGWORMS

The bagworm is native to the United States and is actively found in the Midwest. Bagworms feed on many species of trees and shrubs. They are rarely a problem on deciduous trees.

## DAMAGE

Bagworms are most common on evergreen trees and shrubs. Juniper, pine, spruce, and arborvitae may be killed if bagworms completely defoliate them. Less serious attacks will retard growth. Bagworms will feed on shade and ornamental trees of any kind, but damage is not serious.



## DESCRIPTION

Newly hatched larvae are very small and begin to spin bags shortly after hatching. The first evidence of infestation is small bags about ¼" long, standing almost on end. As larvae grow, leaf fragments are added to the bag which may be 2 inches long at the end of the summer. The adult female moth is wingless and never leaves the bag. Adult males are small gray moths with clear wings. Bagworms over-winter in the egg stage inside female bags fastened to twigs. Eggs hatch in late May and early June, and the young begin to feed immediately. Larvae usually feed on the plant where the hatching occurs until late August and early September.



## CONTROLLING BAGWORMS CULTURAL CONTROL

Picking off bags in the winter and spring before the eggs hatch can control infestations on small trees and shrubs. Bags should be destroyed by burning, immersing in kerosene, or by crushing. If the bags containing larvae are discarded on the ground, the larvae can return to the host plants.

## CHEMICAL CONTROL

Chemicals are very effective if applied early in the growth stage of bagworms. It is very important to apply chemical sprays from mid to late June for the most effective control. Some chemicals available to use are: Liquid Sevin, Diazinon, and Malathion.

## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

One bacterial agent is available for bagworm control. The scientific name is *Bacillus thuringiensis*. It is commonly known as BT. There are other specific company brands that contain BT. It is considered a "natural" control method as opposed to other chemicals and their side effects.

