

This control method is cheap, easy and the most effective way of preventing the White Cedar Moth larvae and the White-stemmed Gum Moth larvae from defoliating your trees. Most important of all, this method does not require the use of insecticides.

How banding works

The practice of banding requires a hessian sack or other dark cloth to be wrapped around the trunk of the tree to provide a place for the larvae to conceal themselves during the day time after feeding at night. The hessian is tied around the trunk below the first fork so that the top half of the hessian is folded over the lower half producing a sheltered area between the fold. The hessian is then checked daily to remove and destroy the larvae.

White Cedar Moth

The larva from this moth are very destructive and white cedar trees (*Melia azedarach*) rarely escape attack during the Autumn generation. The Spring generation is not as severe.

The eggs are laid on the bark and the young larvae feed on the foliage at night retreating to the base of the trunk, or elsewhere nearby, to hide from predators during the daytime. When the leaves are exhausted from one tree they will migrate in a processional group to another white cedar and so on.

Banding the white cedar trunk with a hessian sack or similar material is very effective in controlling these pests. The band of hessian acts as an attractive shelter for the larvae during the day, and can then be removed each day for examination and destruction of the caterpillars. If the band is removed and rid of the caterpillars each day for a week, no more insects of that processional group will remain.

White-stemmed Gum Moth

The larvae of this moth will cause destruction to foliage on trees but the main concern to people is the irritation caused by the fine hairs which enter the skin with the potential to cause extensive rashes on the body.

The larvae hatch in June-July and are fully fed by December-January. Banding a tree high up as possible on the main trunk is effective in trapping and removing the larvae in the same way as the White Cedar Moth larvae.

Information Reference: A guide to the care and cure of Australian trees, P.W. Hadlington & J.A Johnston. 1977 New South Wales University Press, Kensington. pp 22, 23, 45, 47.

Disclaimers

This information was believed to be correct at the date of its publication.

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