



Winter Moth

This is a common and often important pest of apple trees and sometimes pear, plum and cherry.



DAMAGE:

The adult moths emerge from the soil between late autumn and mid winter to mate. The females, which are incapable of flight, crawl up the tree trunk and lay their eggs on the branches.

The caterpillars can be seen during the early spring. They are up to 25mm long, greenish yellow and have a dark stripe along their backs and three stripes on each side. They arch their backs ('loopers') when moving and feed on young leaves as they emerge, loosely binding them with silk-like threads, sometimes causing almost total defoliation. They also feed on the flowers and fruitlets causing extensive damage. The immature

fruits either drop prematurely, or grow but become misshapen with corky scars, often developing a deep hole that extends down to the core. In June the larvae drop to the ground under the trees where they bury themselves in the soil until late autumn when the cycle begins again.

CONTROL:

Non Chemical Controls

Winter Moths mate from around November through to January. As a preventative measure apply greasebands or **insect barrier glue** around each trunk and tree stake during the autumn to prevent female moths from reaching the branches. Many birds will feed their chicks with large quantities of winter moth caterpillars during the spring.

Chemical Controls

Commercially available organic sprays

The following sprays are based on natural pyrethrum/pyrethrins which is derived from the flowers of a member of the Chrysanthemum genus *Tanacetum cinerariifolium* and work on contact. Although effective they will require more frequent applications than when using synthetic pesticides, as they have a shorter persistence. Spray as soon as possible after flowering.

Pyrol Bug & Larvae Killer – concentrate or ready to use.
Defenders Bug Killer

Commercially available synthetic pesticides

Suitable for use on apple and pear trees, spray as soon as flowering finishes. Synthetic pesticides generally give a higher level of control.

Bayer Garden Provado® Ultimate Fruit & Vegetable Bug Killer - concentrate or ready to use
(*Deltamethrin*)
Bayer Sprayday Greenfly Killer (*Deltamethrin*)
Westland Resolva Bug Killer (*Lambda cyhalothrin*)

USE CHEMICALS SAFELY: ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

When using chemicals it is most important to follow the manufacturer's instructions precisely. Only use on the fruits that are listed on the manufacturer's label. An accurate weighing machine and measuring cylinder should be obtained. Chemicals can be wasted by making concentrations unnecessarily strong or by making them too weak and ineffective. Furthermore, if chemicals are too strong they may cause some damage to the foliage.