

CANKERWORM

Canker worms are a small worm commonly known as an “inchworm.” Cankerworms crawl up trees to lay eggs. The eggs hatch as the leaves on the trees begin to leaf out, which the larvae cankerworms feed



on the new leaves. Cankerworms are often seen dropping from silken threads from trees.

Cankerworms are present in the larvae stage for only about 4 to 5 weeks in early spring. Cankerworms will not kill a healthy tree. If all the leaves are removed, the tree will put out new leaves. The trees will have enough of a growing season to recover from the cankerworms.

PREVENTION:

Tree Banding:

Tree banding is the most effective way to reduce cankerworms. Tree bands should be installed in late November to early December to prevent the female cankerworms from climbing trees to lay eggs. The focus should be on trees taller than 20 feet. Cankerworms have a preference of maples, oaks, and elms.

How to Band a Tree:

To band a tree, the following materials are necessary and can be purchased at most hardware and garden stores:

- Staple gun
- Strip of cotton or Insulation
- Roofing felt
- Tanglefoot™ (glue)
- Putty Knife

Step 1: Install a strip of cotton or insulation around the tree at least three feet from the ground and below the lowest limbs.



Step 2: Position a band of roofing felt over the strip and attach it to the tree with the staple gun. (On small trees use electrical tape to hold bands)

Step 3: Apply a layer of Tanglefoot™ to the band of roofing felt with the putty knife. The Tanglefoot™ should be applied after most of the leaves have fallen off the trees. Bands should be removed at the beginning of February.

Tree Banding Supplies can be purchased from local retail stores:

Ace Hardware

20510 N Main St.
Cornelius, NC 28031
(704) 892-7651

Home Depot

17111 Statesville Road
Cornelius, NC 28031
704-987-0490

Lowe's

16830 Statesville Road
Huntersville, NC 28078
704-892-9449