

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: [Robert L. Anderson](#), USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org; [William H. Hoffard](#), USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** Eastern Tent Caterpillar

**Scientific Name:** *Malacosoma americanum*

**Order and Family:** Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	Masses: 19mm	Eggs deposited in masses of 150 – 400 eggs and covered with shiny black material.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	50mm	Moderately large hairy caterpillars, black with light stripe on back with row of blue spots on sides.
<b>Adult</b>		Reddish brown with two pale bands across forewings.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		Pale yellow cocoons.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** These are chewing pests that feed on leaves and developing fruit.

**Host plant/s:** Their hosts are rosaceous fruit trees like apple, crabapple, plum, cherry, and hawthorn. They are also found on poplar, willow, ash, and birch.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** These caterpillars chew leaves early on in the season and cause defoliation. Tents of woven silk in branches attract attention as well and may be considered unsightly.

### References:

Bessin, R. (n.d.). *Eastern Tent Caterpillar*. University of Kentucky Department of Entomology. Retrieved from <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef423>

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide To Backyard Bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar. United States Department of Agriculture Forest Services. Retrieved from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern\\_tent\\_caterpillar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_tent_caterpillar)