

## Brown Tailed Moth



*(Euproctis chrysorrhoea)*

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This leaflet gives information on the problems associated with infestations of Brown Tailed Moth (*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*) and how they should be dealt with.

### What are they?



The Brown Tailed Moth is approximately 3.5cm wide with white wings. They appear in gardens during late summer when the female lays eggs underneath leaves in a variety of trees and shrubs.

Small caterpillars measuring 1cm to 3.5cm in length emerge from the eggs. They have a black coloured body with two distinctive red spots near the back end. The caterpillar is covered in numerous fine, long, yellow-brown hairs.



### Where are they found?

The caterpillars live on a variety of shrubs but prefer hawthorn, rose, cherry and apple trees. They spin silken "tents" which stick to the leaves and branches of the trees. The "tents" are white in colour but progressively darken when contaminated with dust and dirt.

On sunny days, the caterpillars are often seen dropping out of the trees on silken threads and can be seen crawling across the ground.

### What are the problems?

The hairs of the caterpillar, which can be shed and carried by the wind, can cause a severe skin rash if contact is made. The rash can be quite painful and is similar to a nettle rash.

### What should you do if you are affected?

If the skin is irritated, wash thoroughly with soapy water. Ensure that any clothing worn or any washing out on the line near to infested trees is thoroughly laundered. If the rash is particularly painful or the eyes affected, you are advised to seek medical attention immediately.

## How can they be controlled?

If you spot an infestation on your own property, do not attempt to deal with it yourself. You are advised to contact a pest control company or horticulturalist, details of which can be obtained from Yellow Pages or the DEFRA website [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk).

## Further advice

If you are troubled by this pest, you should follow the above advice and let us know so that we can monitor the situation.