





Technical Bulletin for: Western Tent Caterpillar

Malacosoma californicum (Packard) • Lepidoptera, *Lasiocampidae* • MALCAL



DISTRIBUTION	Southern Canada, the western United States, and parts of northern Mexico.
HOSTS	Mountain-mahogany, wax currant, aspen, willow, and plum
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Adults have wingspan between 3.5-5 centimeters. Moths are brown, yellow, tan or grey, with two lighter or darker lines crossing the body.
Larvae	The caterpillars are black, grey, or white with an orange stripe running longitudinally across the body. There are blue-white lines on each segment with dispersed setae.
Eggs	Chocolate brown laid in masses.
LIFE HISTORY	Adults emerge in the late summer to copulate and lay eggs. Adult moths will preferentially lay their eggs on the sunny side of their host trees. Eggs will lay in diapause over the winter and hatch the following spring. Larvae feed on the leaves of their host plants, remaining as a family in silken tents in their early instars. Adult moths do not eat and live for 1–4 days. There is one generation per year.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	E5,Z7-12Ald in a White Rubber Septum. Lure Longevity: Thirty (30) days.	
TRAP TO USE	Panel Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang traps near host plants, at least 1 m off of the ground. When trapping for multiple species of insect, a spacing of up to 20m is recommended. Check with local Forestry Service, Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for further information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Inspect for damage to crops, which includes defoliation and silk tents. Remove infested branches as necessary. In extreme cases, removal of entire host plant may be required.	

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