

# UNWANTED!

## WINTER MOTH — *OPEROPHTERA BRUMATA*



*Adult Male* moth has wings; appears in November-December; flutters around lights at night.



*Adult Female* moth is flightless and climbs up trees to lay eggs



Winter moth eggs.



*Larvae/caterpillars/loopers* do the damage by feeding on buds and leaves from April to June. They can spread from tree to tree on silk threads blown by wind.

...*an exotic invader* damaging Massachusetts trees since 2004.

They attack: maples, oaks, ash, lindens, fringetrees, fruit trees, serviceberry, blueberries. Heavy infestations can defoliate, weaken or even kill your trees.

Control: check with a tree service about spraying in spring; biological sprays less harmful to beneficial insects and birds are available (B.t.k.; Spinosad). (Banding the tree with a band covered with sticky substances in November will catch the females and reveal the extent of an infestation, so you can call an arborist and 'reserve' spraying services in the spring, but banding won't really control the insect.)

Remedies: Spray. See UMass info sheet at URL below. If your trees are defoliated, give them **extra water** all summer. Neighbors might join together to contract for spraying service.

Town spraying? The Town cannot spray every public tree in Lexington, but the DPW does spot spraying for certain trees as warranted.

More info at [http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact\\_sheets/defoliators/winter\\_moth.pdf](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/defoliators/winter_moth.pdf)

Lexington Tree Committee