

Pest Alert

Buck Moth Caterpillar

Southeastern Stinging Caterpillar Appearing Now



Buck Moth Facts:

- Skin is covered with stinging spines
- Feed on oak trees and can be present in large groups
- Sting causes itching, swelling and intense pain
- *Pupae can live up to 2 years in the soil before emerging as adults*
- Fall from trees easily – sting when they touch a person
- Easiest to control when caterpillars are small
- Adult moths do not feed or damage plants – do not have mouthparts

The Buck Moth Caterpillar is getting ready to make an appearance in the Southeastern US any time now. This caterpillar not only eats leaves on trees and shrubs, but it is a member of a small group of caterpillars whose skin is covered with stinging spines which if they touch your skin can cause a nasty rash. The caterpillars often congregate in groups on tree branches and leaves, and will fall from the tree if disturbed. If they land on you, you may experience stinging and burning as their spines contact your skin.

Buck Moth Caterpillars are susceptible to many common caterpillar killing insecticides. These include chemical controls like **Bonide Caterpillar Killer**. This Bonide product comes in a ready to spray applicator which hooks to your garden hose and which will deliver a dose of insecticide to trees up to 25 feet high. **Bonide Eight® Yard and Garden Insect Control** is also effective against this stinging pest, and is also available in the hose end applicator bottle.

Gardeners who are looking for natural controls for the stinging Buck Moth Caterpillar can find excellent control by using either **Bonide Thuricide® (BT) Liquid**, or the new **Bonide Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew** product. Thuricide contains a bacterial control for caterpillars called bacillus thuringiensis. This is a fast acting natural insect control which only affects caterpillars. Captain Jack's products contain **Spinosad®** insecticide, a recently discovered insect killer which is derived from natural bacteria. Spinosad kills caterpillars quickly and is a natural product.

Adult Buck Moths do not harm plants. Adults are mainly black and have a wingspan of about 2-3 inches. A white band bisects the wings of Buck Moth adults. Stings from a Buck Moth larva can result in redness, swelling and severe itching. In some cases, multiple stings can be fatal in allergic individuals.

When applying chemical controls for Buck Moth Caterpillar control, be sure to follow the label directions including timing, temperature and wind conditions.

Bonide Control Products for Buck Moth Caterpillar



Caterpillar Killer

- Kills caterpillars on contact
- Lasts up to 8 weeks
- Twist & Shoot sprayer reaches up to 25 ft.
- Contains Lambda Cyhalothrin



Eight Yard & Garden

- Great outdoor insect killer
- Non-staining water based
- Kills caterpillars
- Contains permethrin



Thuricide® Bt

- Natural caterpillar control
- Will not harm beneficial insects
- Bacterial caterpillar killer



Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew

- Natural caterpillar control
- Use effectively for many insects
- Contains Spinosad®