

## ***Caterpillar Defoliators***

What you can do to help protect your trees



### **Tree Banding**

This action helps to stop caterpillars from reaching the leaves of the tree. Once caterpillar eggs hatch in early to mid-May, caterpillars will start to climb up tree trunks to feed on leaves. Caterpillars will come down during the hottest part of the day to where it is cooler. As the caterpillars climb up and down a tree, they can be trapped by placing a band around the tree trunk with a sticky substance such as Tanglefoot on it. Banding material (including Tanglefoot) can be purchased at most local hardware stores and garden centres. Place any material that will fill the cracks of the bark around the tree such as cotton batten, this will prevent caterpillars from going under the sticky band. Place the band on top of the cotton batten tightly and apply the Tanglefoot to this band. Spread the Tanglefoot using a paint scraper or spreader and wear gloves while applying the Tanglefoot. Caterpillars will get stuck to the sticky surface and no longer be able to move. Replace the sticky band if it becomes crowded with caterpillars or as needed. Remove the sticky band when caterpillars start to pupate (change into moths), around the end of July or beginning of August. Tree banding performed in October or November will catch the flightless female cankerworm moths as they climb trees to lay eggs.