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The hottest questions for June and July at the County Extension Office have been about caterpillars, moths, June Bugs, and the Citrus Long Horned Beetles.

The most important thing to know about insects is most of the damage is done by the larva not by the adults. Once in a great while adult insects (aphids are an example) will cause damage but as a rule it's the larvae who are the voracious nibblers of our plants. It's also important to know nature is very good at creating a balance. We usually don't have to do anything to control insect populations. (It's hard to remember that in a year like this when we've all been overrun first by caterpillars and now moths.)

Tent caterpillars are metamorphasizing into moths on a great scale now. If you look closely at your fruit trees, roses and alders (or anywhere you had tent caterpillars) you'll probably notice gray Styrofoam-like material wrapped around the thinner stems (often near the new growth). These Styrofoam structures are the moth's egg cases. Sometimes the cases will appear brown or even tan. If you peel the material off and look closely you'll see the tiny oval eggs. Remove as many of the casings as you can and dispose of them in your garbage can. It will help keep the population of caterpillars down in the spring.

If the moths are driving you crazy milling around your porch lights try changing your white bulbs to yellow. The moths are not supposed to be attracted to the yellow light. One of our Master Gardeners puts out a tub or bucket of water with oil in it near his white porch light and the moths flock to the reflection in the water and drown. Don't feel too merciless about using this procedure if you are so inclined because most insects (i.e. the moths in this case) have very short life spans and usually die in a few hours or days.

Ten Lined June Bugs (*Polyphylla decemlineata*), Whitespotted Sawyer Beetles (*Monochamus scutellatus*) and Banded Alder Borers are being mistaken for the Citrus Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*). To see very clear photos of these three beetles key in <http://www.wa.gov/agr/HotTopics/CitrusLHB/LookAlikephotos.htm>. It's the Washington State Department of Agriculture site on the Citrus Longhorned Beetle. You'll find links to abundant information on this unfortunate pest. The Citrus Longhorned Beetle has very long black and white antennae and has distinctive irregular white spots on its back. If you think you've found a Citrus Longhorned Beetle you can capture it in a jar and bring it to the WSU Extension Office at 715 Sidney in Port Orchard, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

June Beetles/Bugs (*Polyphylla decemlineata*) are fat dark brown and white striped (ten lines if you count) beetles. If you pick one up and look at its body it appears to have coppery brown fur on it. Each wing cover has five strips. The antennae have a distinct brown/coppery cast to them. Some of the antennae look short and stubby and some are quite feathery looking. It varies from beetle to beetle. Often when you touch them you'll

hear a loud hiss. What a great defense mechanism! It would definitely startle another predator.

June Beetles have a three to four year life cycle. Grubs and adults overwinter in the soil. In late June and early July adults emerge on warm evenings, mate and return to the soil. Eggs hatch after two to six weeks. The black-headed white grub-like larvae feed on organic materials and roots near soil surface. Host plants are: potatoes, grasses, corn, sugarbeets, ornamentals and fruit trees. In our area they do very little damage. You'll find photos and information at [www.pfc.forestry.ca/diseases/nursery/pests/junejunebeet\\_e](http://www.pfc.forestry.ca/diseases/nursery/pests/junejunebeet_e) and <http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/keys/plates/plate3.html>.

If you do encounter an outbreak of an insect pest and feel it necessary to act make sure you know the life cycle of the particular pest. Treatment is specific to each insect's life cycle, and often to the plant's life cycle too. Make sure the pest and plant are listed on the label of the product you choose. Notice timing, temperature and number of applications. This is true for organic as well as synthetic pesticides. Always read the cautions and warnings too. A good rule is to read all labels completely and at least three times before purchasing the product and leaving the store with it. Note too that many of these chemicals are actually hazardous materials when it comes to disposing of the unused portions.

Don't forget the Kitsap Peninsular Summer Splendor Garden Festival August 3 and 4 sponsored by the Silverdale Chamber of Commerce. The tour starts at Kitsap Mall at the Confetti's Food Court Entrance. Tickets are fifteen dollars. Order online at [www.silverdalechamber.com](http://www.silverdalechamber.com) or phone 360-692-6800.

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