

July 12, 2021

Residents of Bangor have been diligently reporting the caterpillar, at first, and now the adult moths. Our infestation map is starting to come together, you can view that below. Thank you to everyone who has participated in reporting. [You can file your own report by clicking here.](#)

Recent rains have done a great job washing toxic Browntail moth hairs into the soil where they are much less likely to cause allergic reactions in residents (unless you are actively digging in the soil). Forecasted rain this week will continue to reduce the negative impact of these hairs. We are seeing the adult moths (pictured below) emerging from cocoons in large numbers and gathering near bright lights at night. The Maine Forest Service is recommending that people **do not** try to manage Browntail moths in the adult moth stage. However, they **do** recommend that people turn off unnecessary outside lights between 9:00 pm and 12:00 am (midnight) to avoid attracting them to your property. If they are not being attracted to your property then the chances of them laying eggs is decreased. The good news is that the hairs of the adult moth are not toxic, so they are not contributing to additional outbreaks of rash and itching.

Unfortunately there is not a lot we (you or the City of Bangor) can do to control this year's population. The next step, and a very important step, in controlling next year's population will be the winter nest snipping. These nests are very visible, each nest snipped removes 200-400 caterpillars (and literally billions of toxic hairs) from the 2022 lifecycle, and snipping causes no harm to the tree, to beneficial insects, to wildlife, or to people. As these winter nests appear we will be sharing more information about identification and how you can help prevent the spread on your own property.

More information:

[Browntail Moth - Home and Garden IPM from Cooperative Extension - University of Maine Cooperative Extension](#)

[Browntail Moth Euproctis chrysorrhoea : Forest Health & Monitoring: Bureau of Forestry: Maine DACE](#)

June 4, 2021:



(Photo credit: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry)

The City of Bangor is experiencing a marked increase in the number of complaints regarding Browntail Moth exposure. This spring, many residents suffered from direct exposure to caterpillar hair and indirect exposure from windblown hairs.

The City has developed a plan to address the increase in Browntail Moth activity that includes a public information campaign, tracking of locations where nests are seen, a clipping program to remove winter nests, and determining the appropriate methods to treat and target impacted foliage.



(Photo credit: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry)

The browntail moth is an invasive species normally found on the coast of Maine and Cape Cod, but in 2021 the winter webs were discovered in all 16 Maine counties. This moth is an insect of both forest and human health concern.

Caterpillars are active from April to late June. Hairs remain toxic throughout the summer but get washed into the soil and are less of a problem over time.