

# PROTECT YOUR TREES

## BURLAP BAND INFORMATION SHEET



Burlap bands can be used to trap *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD)/spongy moth caterpillars on your trees making them easier to collect. While **burlap bands DO NOT stop LDD/spongy moth caterpillars from climbing trees and eating the leaves**, they are a safe and effective collection method.

By mid-June, caterpillars will grow to about 2.5 centimetres in length and begin moving down trees during the day to seek refuge from the mid-day sun and will climb back up at night to eat leaves. You can take advantage of this behaviour by putting burlap bands on your trees.

### Here's how:

1. Wrap a piece of burlap around the trunk of your tree.
2. Tie twine/rope around the middle or slightly below the centre of the burlap.
3. Drape the burlap over the twine/rope so there is an overhang where the caterpillars can crawl under to seek shelter during the day.
4. Each afternoon, check burlap bands by lifting the overhanging burlap. Remove caterpillars and place in a bucket of soapy water, stir then dispose of them after a day or two.



### Tips:

- **Always wear gloves when handling caterpillars and egg masses** to avoid an allergic reaction
- **Check burlap bands daily to ensure birds or other wildlife don't get caught**
- **Leave burlap bands up until the end of August and then remove.** LDD/spongy moths may lay egg masses under the burlap making them easier to find. Place egg masses in a bucket of soapy water, stir then dispose of them after a day or two
- **Burlap and twine/rope can be reused** next year if LDD/spongy moth populations reach high numbers, or put it in the garbage so it doesn't become litter
- **Applying sticky tape around the tree trunk is not recommended.** Small animals including mice, chipmunks or birds, as well as insects, may get stuck which could lead to injury/death