

PRONewEngland.org  
**Common New England  
 Ornamental Plant  
 Insect Pests**



**Birch leafminer** larvae feed inside birch leaves causing blotches. Infested trees may be almost completely browned. Control requires precise timing when birch foliage emerges in spring.



**Eastern tent caterpillars** feed on foliage of apple, crabapple, cherry and related trees. Eggs hatch in early spring as buds open on host trees. Nests begin at branch crotches and can be removed by hand.



**Fall webworm** larvae feed on birch, cherry, crabapple, lilac, and many other hardwoods. Larvae begin web nests on branch tips in July, and continue feeding through August. Using fire to remove fall webworm or eastern tent caterpillar nests is more harmful than the pests!



**Japanese beetle** adults feed on over 400 plants including rose, fruit trees, raspberries, beans, tomatoes, and corn. Adults emerge in late June–July. They feed primarily during the day, leaving lacy skeletons of leaves. Larvae feed in the soil on roots of turf grass and other plants.



**Lily leaf beetle** adults emerge in late March and April. Slug-like larvae hatch in April and May, and feed on true lilies, hollyhocks, various *Hosta* species and many other plants. Make sure purchased plants are pest-free.



**Viburnum leaf beetle** larvae hatch in late April and May; adults emerge in July. Larvae and adults feed exclusively on foliage of different viburnum species. Heavily infested plants can have every leaf skeletonized. Control is most effective on young larvae.