

FRESH POND RESERVOIR
EASTERN TENT CATERPILLARS

The eastern tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americana*) emerges in the spring at about the same time the first leaves start to open. The larvae then spend approximately the next eight weeks feeding on the foliage. Anything from the health of their predators to severe winters can influence their annual populations.

Their food base is most often the wild cherry (*Prunus* spp.) which is a relatively short lived early succession species. It is not a timber producing forest tree and rarely exceeds six inches in diameter. Therefore the caterpillars presence results in an aesthetic vs. an economic problem.

The three generally accepted methods of pest control involve either singularly or cooperatively, the following:

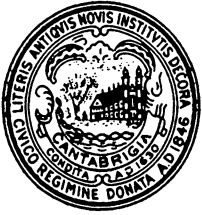
- a. chemical control
- b. biological control
- c. silvicultural (mechanical) control

Chemical control is not acceptable because of the type of pesticide necessary and the proximity to the reservoir.

Biological control for tent caterpillars is not an accepted effective method. Silvicultural or mechanical control means the physical removal and destruction of the infested vegetation.

Silvicultural control is the recommended method for regulation of tent caterpillar populations along the peripheral access road at Fresh Pond Reservoir. The Water Department has indicated that the removal of these selected food sources will be incorporated into the maintenance program.

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC WORKS
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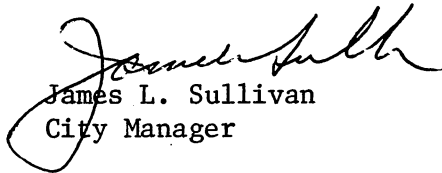
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

September 10, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 13 relative to
tent caterpillars at the Fresh Pond Reservation, enclosed please
find copy of a report from John Seites, Superintendent of the
Water Department.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

S-482

Response to Awaiting Report No. 13 re: tent
caterpillars at the Fresh Pond Reservation.

In City Council,
Sept. 10, 1979

9/10/79
Placed on File -