

WESTERN TENT CATERPILLAR
Malacosoma californicum

- Natural range -** Northern and western United States and adjoining Canada. At least six subspecies are recognized
- Species affected -** Various broadleaf trees and plants including oaks, poplars willows, cherry, wild plum, birch, alder, aspen, cottonwood, *Ceanothus* and mountain mahogany
- Type of damage -** Larvae construct tents in early spring and feed on foliage.
- Symptoms -** Silken tents in branches of trees and foliage stripped from individual branches.
- Importance -** Populations occasionally become abundant enough to be conspicuous. Damage is minor and mainly cosmetic in nature.



Left – Larva of western tent caterpillar on tent.
Right – Western tent caterpillar tent and defoliation on aspen.