



Usually, air spraying is carried out along touristic roads, in picnic sites and afforestation areas, communal and municipal forests and generally in areas which are frequently visited by people.

The public is advised to spray infected pine trees, especially in inhabited areas, with the appropriate biological substances in order to avoid the adverse effects of the insect. **For further information you may contact the Forestry Department (tel. 22819472/70).**



P.I.O. 93/2008—3.000
Published by the Press and Information Office
Printed: Κώνος Λτδ



Printed on recycled paper

The pine caterpillar



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT**
FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
www.moa.gov.cy/forest

The caterpillar, commonly known as the larvae of pine trees, creates the most severe insect problem in our forests.

Problems created

By feeding on the needles of pine trees, defoliation is gradually occurred which affects negatively the aesthetic appearance of isolated trees or even extensive areas of pine forest.

In inhabited areas or areas which are frequently visited by people contact with caterpillar causes severe dermatic and allergic symptoms.



Advice to the public

Public should not come in contact in any case with the caterpillar or touch its nest. They should avoid also sitting under infected pines because this may create skin or eye irritation. If, however, someone has been infected by the caterpillar he should immediately consult his doctor.

Time of attack

Time of attack varies according to the climatic conditions. The duration of larvae hatching depends on the special climatic conditions of each area.



Hatching usually begins on October on mountainous areas and on November in plains. Immediately after hatching, the young

larvae begin feeding on the needles of mainly young pines during the night, and at the same time they create their nests where they hide during the day.

By the end of March they pupate in the soil until the coming summer where they emerge as adults (butterflies) and lay their eggs on the pine needles during September - October.

Time of control

The most suitable time of control of the pine caterpillar is the end of October - middle of December.

The control of the caterpillar by the Forestry Department is done with the use of Biological substances which are harmless to man, bees, plants and animals and do not pollute the environment.