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## Tent caterpillar / Fall webworm damage permanent?

Posted by [Colin Lundy](#)

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[Colin Lundy](#)

[Tent caterpillar / Fall webworm damage permanent?](#)

August 26, 2015 04:53AM

Registered: 8 years ago

Posts: 12

Tent caterpillar / Fall webworm have been worse this year than most. I usually cut off affected branches and destroy them, however I did not get to them on time this year. Are these branches dead? Should they be removed? Or should I just leave them; is it possible the tree has secondary buds waiting to sprout on these branches next year?

Colin Lundy

Colonial Inn Orchard

North Gower, Ontario

Zone 5a (Canada)

Zone 3b (USDA)

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[Paul Weir](#)

[Re: Tent caterpillar / Fall webworm damage permanent?](#)

September 10, 2015 07:38PM

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 187

Yes, very likely the tree will re-sprout from those defoliated branches. You will need to decide if you want to keep them for structure and fruiting purposes or if they can be pruned out for continued training purposes anyway.

Gently scratch the outer layer of the branches in question with your fingernail or a sharp blade and you should see the green cambium layer reveal itself. If you don't, and it is brown or seems brittle, the branch has indeed died back and can be removed.

Do the removal now or in the winter, if they are dead. The removal now will give the trees a little time to heal over the cuts and harden off before the first freezes arrive. You are in Zone 3b though, so you will need to decide if it is safe to do so at this time.

Good luck

[Gopher Hill Apples](#)

Zone 8 in California

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