

# Yellownecked caterpillar

Prepared by  
Camille Goodwin, MG 2008

Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Galveston County Office  
Dickinson, TX 77539



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FIG. 1

Type Pest: chewing insect (*Dantana ministra*)

Type Metamorphous: complete (egg, larva, pupa, adult stages)

Period of Primary Occurrence: summer thru fall

- Adults fly from June to August
- Larvae (caterpillar) present May to October (most plant damage occurs June to September)
- Overwinters as a pupa in a cell in the soil

## Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Predominately black caterpillar with a red last segment and yellow lengthwise stripes (Fig. 1)
- Head and legs are bright red (Fig. 7-8)
- Mature caterpillar is about 2" long
- Adult moth is light brown with a wing expanse of 1¾"



FIG. 2

## Description / Symptoms

- Larvae feed mainly on leaves of live oaks in the Galveston-Houston region, skeletonizing leaves or devouring entire leaves
- Often defoliates much of plant before detection
- Defoliation appears first on the periphery of the tree crown
- Caterpillars hang by silken threads
- The yellownecked caterpillar is seldom a widespread pest on oaks, but heavily infested trees may be defoliated completely by mid to late summer



FIG. 3

## Best Management Practices (BMP)

### NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Although hairy, caterpillar is harmless to humans and can be picked off the bushes by hand

### CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Treat when caterpillars are first noticed
- Recommended insecticides that are available for home use include carbaryl (Sevin 50WP) and cyfluthrin (Bayer Advanced Garden Multi-Insect Killer)



FIG. 4



The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label:  
“KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN”

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**Texas AgriLife Extension Service • Galveston County Office • 5115 Highway 3 • Dickinson, TX 77539  
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