



Box Caterpillar

Box caterpillar has, unfortunately, moved into the London area over the last few years. The leaves of the box plant (*Buxus*) are eaten and the plant is covered in webbing, mainly from April to October. The green caterpillars are the larvae of a moth that feeds on box; the adult moth has white wings with a brown border.

Treat as follows:

- Remove caterpillars by hand as much as possible.
- Use a pheromone trap, a biological control, from April to October in order to control the moths.
- Use Provanto, Bug Clear Ultra or Pyrol Bug & Larvae Killer to kill the caterpillars – don't mix any two pesticides together.

Ideally, put up a Solabiol pheromone trap BEFORE the moths start moving in. This entirely natural trap attracts the male moths, preventing them from breeding with the females, and thus no larvae are produced.

Whilst the trap may seem expensive, it is harmless to the wider environment and you can end up spending a lot more if you try to control the pests with pesticides alone, as you will need to respray every 10 days or so.

When spraying, wear rubber gloves and do not spray in windy or very hot conditions – early morning, late afternoon or evening is best. Make sure that no children or pets are nearby and take care not to spray any flowers as this will affect pollinators such as bees.

Spray thoroughly including stems, buds and the undersides of leaves but without excessive run-off or drift. Rake your hands through the plant as much as possible so that the chemical is spread throughout the plant.

Repeat this procedure every 10-14 days in order to break the cycle of the pest.

Wash your hands after use and keep the spray container only for pesticide use.