



## Topic: Snowbush Caterpillar

**Question:** We have these black moths with yellow tips on the wings. They are all over our snowbush. Are they good or bad?

- Judith, Fort Myers

**Answer:** This is definitely bad news for your snowbush, *Breynia disticha*. If left unattended there won't be much of a shrub left in about a week or so. The caterpillars will eat all the leaves then strip the stems of their bark. Yet, their feeding has not been known to kill the shrub. The pest is called the snowbush caterpillar, *Breynia disticha*. It is a type of spanworm. To control, spray with an insecticide containing Spionsad or other recommended products.



## Useful Links

[Snowbush Caterpillar](#)

[Stephen's Webpage](#)

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by e-mailing [brownsh@leegov.com](mailto:brownsh@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/GardenHome.shtml>. For native plants click on Publications A-Z.

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