**Box Tree Moth / Caterpillars**

- **What can be done?**
  - Pick off the caterpillars by hand - difficult on a large hedge or plant
  - Spray the caterpillars with a biological insecticide which tend to be safer with bees & other beneficial animals - search for ‘organic pesticide box caterpillars’ or purchase XenTari via www.ebts.org/ebts-uk-shop/
  - Or spray with a chemical insecticide (do not use when bees & animals are around - still early mornings are best - search for ‘box tree caterpillar spray’)
  - Always read the instructions before using the sprays
  - Install a pheromone trap, which catches the male moths so the don’t fertilise the eggs and therefore don’t produce caterpillars
  - Book a professional to spray with DECIS which protects for 5-6wks

- **Box moths lay eggs on the underside of box leaves between April to October.**
- **When the eggs hatch they produce caterpillars that eat the leaves & creating a trail of cobwebs and leaf pellets.**
- **Caterpillars first appear in March when the weather warms up having overwintered wrapped in webbing between leaves—they are not affect by frost in the UK.**

- **They can eat a lot, so when they are spotted you need to take action otherwise your hedges will look like the picture on the left until it grows back shown on the right (the same hedge a few months later).**

- **For more info visit**
  - The European Boxwood & Topiary Society
  - [www.ebts.org](http://www.ebts.org)

- **Box plants will grow back if you get rid of the caterpillars**
  - Please don’t give up or dig up your box