

## **Do You Have A Horse Chestnut Tree in Your Garden, Field or Boundary Hedge?**

**If you do, you may have noticed that the leaves die off early, turning brown as the summer progresses.**

This early die back is due to the larvae of a leaf-mining moth. The eggs are laid in May and through to August. When the eggs hatch, the larvae enter the leaves and eat them from the inside (see picture below).

**Photo of a leaf taken from the big tree on 11 July 2019**



I carried out a survey of Horse Chestnut trees in and around Chearsley last year and all of them were infected to a greater or lesser extent. This included our iconic Horse Chestnut tree at the Junction of Winchendon Road and Aylesbury Road.

The only means of control is to use pheromone traps to attract the males and to stop them mating. The traps need to be in the trees from April to August (one trap per tree).

Traps are available online from Harrod Horticultural (<https://harrodhorticultural.com>) and from Dragonfli ([www.dragonfli.co.uk](http://www.dragonfli.co.uk)) and via Amazon. The traps cost around £20 and are usually supplied with three lures. Each lure lasts around six weeks. Replacement lures are also available online.

The Parish Council has ordered traps for the Horse Chestnut tree at the junction and will be placing them in the tree in the next week and would urge those with Horse Chestnut trees on or adjacent to their properties to do likewise.

The results of my survey and further information is available through this link [http://www.chearsley.com/OCE/Horse-Chestnut\\_Survey\\_2019.pdf](http://www.chearsley.com/OCE/Horse-Chestnut_Survey_2019.pdf)

Please call me or email me if you wish to discuss this issue further.

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