

BEEKSE BERGEN



INFORMATION PROCESSIONARY CATERPILLAR

The oak processionary caterpillar is found on various species of oak tree and has spread throughout the Netherlands. The caterpillars build nests on the trunks and branches of the trees and have small, stinging hairs. A venomous substance in the hairs can trigger allergic reactions in humans and other mammals, such as itching and skin rash. Beekse Bergen guests' well-being, as well as that of our animals, is of great concern to us. We use various methods to keep the caterpillar under control for the benefit of humans and animals alike.



The oak processionary caterpillar has natural enemies that occur freely. These natural enemies contribute considerably to keeping the oak processionary caterpillar in check. Biodiversity is the best method to prevent the caterpillar from nesting, and this is something of which Beekse Bergen is taking maximum advantage.



Beekse Bergen also tries to prevent the caterpillars nesting by hanging birdhouses for the great tit in its oaks. Great tits play a prominent role in keeping caterpillar numbers under control, as the birds remove the caterpillars from their nests and eat them.



In addition to these preventive measures, Beekse Bergen works together with local authorities to fight the oak processionary caterpillar. Beekse Bergen uses the same methods as the municipality and province to combat this pest, so that the entire region is treated in the same way.

Advice in case of complaints

If you suffer any complaints after coming into contact with the caterpillar's hairs, act as follows:

1. Remove any clothing that has the venomous, stinging hairs on it;
2. Thoroughly rinse the skin (and eyes, if necessary) with lukewarm water;
3. Do you have an itch or skin irritation anywhere? Try to remove the hairs with adhesive tape;
4. Try not to scratch or rub the itch;
5. A cooling ointment or cream with menthol may help if the itch is severe (on sale at Guest Service);
6. If in doubt, always consult your general practitioner.