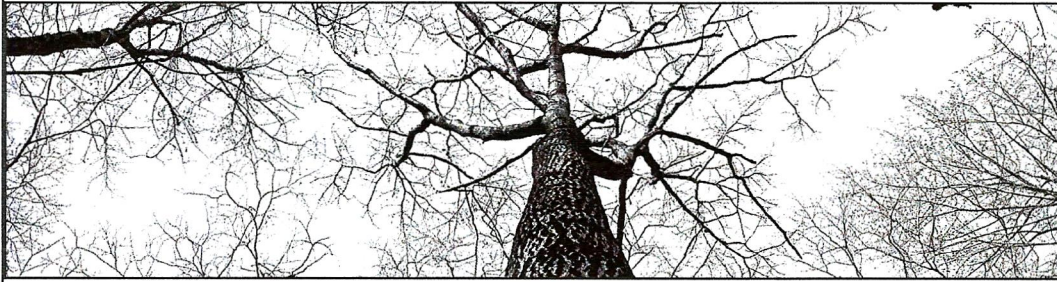


# SAVE OUR TREES



The Polyphagous Shothole Borer Beetle (PSHB) has caused widespread infestation and loss of trees in parts of South Africa. The tiny beetle (<2mm) tunnels into the heartwood of trees, and introduces a fungus which leads to the death of tree. It has now been confirmed in the Western Cape.

*Become an active citizen: here is how you can help to curb the spread of PSHB.*

## **Identify and report PSHB**

- Look for information and photos on how to identify PSHB on <https://www.capetowninvasives.org.za/shot-hole-borer>.
- If you suspect a tree is infected with PSHB, DO NOT cut it down. Report it to CoCT Invasive Species (website above) with pictures & the address of the sighting.
- When photographing PSHB tunnel entrances, include a pen point for scale.

## **Reduce the risk of spread**

- Firewood and mulch may be infected with PSHB, so don't move these materials around. Reduce risk: buy firewood where you intend to burn it.
- Buy/ use only local firewood, or consider using charcoal.
- Gum and pine trees are not affected by PSHB, so are safe to use as mulch and firewood.

## **What to do?**

- Make sure your landscaper/maintenance contractor sterilizes their equipment before leaving one site for another.
- Use mulch from Gum and Pine trees as they are not susceptible to PSHB.
- Form a neighbourhood tree watch: look out for trees with dieback or small entry holes <2mm.
- Certain trees are favoured by PSHB beetles and are the first to be invaded: oaks (Quercus), maples and boxelder (Acer), plane trees (Platanus) and Liquidamber. Monitor these 'indicator' trees closely.
- Check the list of PSHB-host and reproductive trees on <https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php/pshb>. Plant trees that are not on the list.

Compiled by:



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