



SHOT HOLE BORER

HOW TO PROTECT
CAPE TOWN'S TREES
AGAINST THE BEETLE

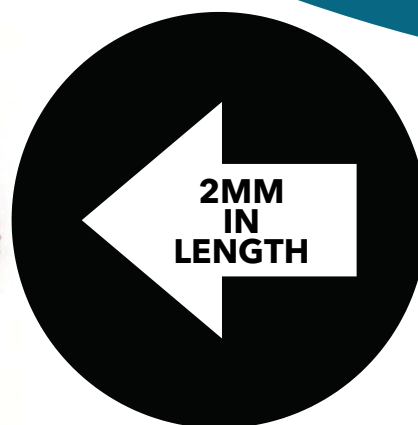


CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
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KNOW THE PSHB BEETLE

- The beetle is the size of a sesame seed, approximately 2mm in length, and it often targets threatened trees across South Africa.
- The beetle is invading and poses a threat to our exotic and indigenous trees.
- The beetle most likely spread through the movement of infested wood, originating from dead or dying PSHB infested trees, including wood to be used for cooking or heating.





BEETLES INVADE TREES

The PSHB beetle makes tunnels, or galleries, in the trunks and branches of host trees and lay their eggs inside.





TREES ARE DYING!

The female beetles carry a fungus from tree to tree that grows in their tunnels. Adult beetles and their larvae depend on the fungus for food.

The fungus in the tunnels is really bad for trees as it disrupts the flow of water and nutrients to the tree causing branch dieback and ultimately the death of the tree.





WHAT TO LOOK FOR - THESE ARE SYMPTOMS OF INFESTED TREES:

- Branch dieback - cracks on the branch; discoloured leaves; dry and leafless branches; branches break-off, revealing webs of galleries filled with black fungus
- Gumming - blobs of goo coming out of the bark; oozing of liquid and gum from the beetle holes
- Entry and exit holes - very small holes on the bark of the tree, the size of a sesame seed (2mm); shotgun-like scars developing around holes
- Staining - brown or dark stains on the bark of the tree





DON'T MOVE INFESTED TREES FROM YOUR PROPERTY

Removing the wood from the property will spread the pest to other areas.

What to do:

- Chip the wood and place it in refuse bags, seal the bags and put these in direct sunlight as the heat will help to kill the beetle and its larvae
- Chip the wood into small pieces and dump it in your compost heap as the heat build-up in the composting process will kill the beetle
- NOTE: pesticides and fungicides are not effective at eradicating the beetle from infested trees. The only successful method is by chipping the tree, and burning the chips at an appropriate site, or leaving it in the sun to die.



HELP PREVENT THE BEETLE FROM SPREADING!

REPORT SIGHTINGS TO THE CITY:

- Online:
www.capetown.gov.za/InvasiveSpecies
- Call the City's Invasive Species Unit on
021 444 2357 from 07:30 - 16:00
Monday to Friday
- E-mail: invasive.species@capetown.gov.za

**REPORT
SIGHTINGS**



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