

Your Levy At Work



Greenlife
INDUSTRY AUSTRALIA

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Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer spreads across Perth: nursery sector urged to stay vigilant

Invasive beetle poses threat to Perth's trees, canopy and nursery sector as quarantine expands.

All 30 local government areas across metropolitan Perth are now under quarantine following the detection of Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB). The invasive beetle capable of causing large-scale tree decline across urban, commercial, and natural landscapes.

Advanced trees, including tree stock in larger containers, particularly in landscape and amenity tree production nurseries, are considered 'high risk' as the beetle generally targets stressed mature hosts. While small trees and shrubs (trunk/branch diameter <20mm) typical to general production nurseries are a lower risk, growers are encouraged to remain vigilant.

Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) and Nursery and Garden Industry Western Australia (NGIWA) are consulting with the Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA DPIRD) to coordinate a management response and provide guidance to industry.

The WA DPIRD management program is focused on reducing impact on vegetation through targeted treatment and surveillance, quarantine containment measures and movement restrictions on plant material, untreated wood, and mulch and developing long-term resilience strategies.

John McDonald, Director of RDE & Biosecurity at Greenlife Industry Australia, said the pest poses an immediate and significant threat to Perth's tree canopy and to advanced tree production in WA," Mr McDonald said.

"More broadly, if PSHB escapes WA the risk to the eastern seaboard is amplified with a more suitable climate to PSHB reproduction and survival supporting potentially higher pest populations that feed a faster spread.

"PSHB and its associated fungus can cause rapid decline in susceptible tree species, which is particularly concerning for large-format amenity tree stock.

"Growers should stay alert for signs of stress in mature or semi-mature trees and make use of BioSecure HACCP as a practical guide for site surveillance, crop monitoring, and despatch inspections. Even if growers aren't in the high-risk categories, tightening surveillance now will save headaches later. Early reporting is critical to slowing spread.

"With management now the only feasible option, industry, government, and the community must work together to protect Perth's tree canopy and reduce long-term impacts on the greenlife sector."

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What growers need to do

- During site surveillance inspect host amenity trees growing on property boundaries, car park or as windbreaks across the site for signs of PSHB
- Monitor advanced container/inground tree stock regularly for key symptoms such as branch dieback, wilting, sap staining, or small borer holes.
- Strengthen on-site hygiene, including cleaning tools, machinery, and equipment used on woody material.
- Report anything unusual immediately to DPIRD via the [MyPestGuide](#) Reporter app.
- Access [WA DPIRD's Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer information](#) and contact the [GIA WA Extension Officer](#) for tailored biosecurity support and advice.
- Follow [BioSecure HACCP](#), the nursery industry's nationally recognised on-site biosecurity program, to help prevent pest spread and protect your stock.

Movement restrictions at a glance

- Do not move untreated wood, mulch, green waste, or live plant material outside the quarantine area.
- Clean all machinery, vehicles, and tools that have contacted green waste before leaving the area.
- If unsure whether material is restricted, treat it as restricted and seek advice from WA DPIRD.

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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