

Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated November 2025

For the most up to date information on PSHB please visit www.dpir.wa.gov.au/pshb

Contents

Transition to management	3
Why can't polyphagous shot-hole borer be eradicated?	3
How will management differ from eradication?	3
Who will coordinate the Transition to Management Response?	3
How long will the Transition to Management Plan be in place?	3
How will the Transition to Management Plan be funded?	3
Will trees continue to be removed under transition to management?	4
Will the Quarantine Area remain in place?	4
What will be done to protect WA's horticulture industries?	4
What will be done to protect the WA environment?	4
Who will cover the cost of removing infested trees under the transition to management?	5
My tree was designated for removal during the eradication phase, what happens now?	5
Should shot-hole borer still be reported?	5
Quarantine Area	5
What is a Quarantine Area Notice?	5
How do I find out if I am in the Management Zone or Containment Zone?	6
What are the Quarantine requirements for each zone?	6
Why are there two different Zones?	6
What material does the Quarantine Area Notice (QAN) apply to?	7
What if I cannot meet these requirements?	7
How do I apply to move host material?	7
Are succulents and Cacti subject to the Quarantine Area Notice?	7
What is a PSHB host species?	7
Movement of wood and plant material	8
Will my local council continue collecting green waste (bins and verge collections)?	8
I have plant material in a skip bin, trailer, etc. How can I dispose of this?	8

Can I bring plants into the Quarantine Area?.....	8
I deliver firewood. What are the restrictions?	8
Does PSHB pose a risk to stacked timbers, wooden outdoor furniture, decking or timbers in my home? Can I move these outside of the Quarantine Area?	9
What are the restrictions for sawmillers, woodturners and those who handle/process green timber?	9
I trade/sell plants and my business is located within the Quarantine Area, can I still sell plants?.....	9
Mulch	10
Is it safe to continue using wood mulch in my garden?	10
Can PSHB be spread in mulch and/or compost?	10
What is a reputable supplier of mulch?	10
What is an un reputable source of mulch?	10
Is it safe to buy/receive free mulch from my local government?	10
DPIRD removed a PSHB infested tree and left the mulch on site, will this allow PSHB to spread?.....	11
PSHB inspections and surveillance.....	11
Will my property be inspected? Will all properties in the Quarantine Area (QA) be inspected?	11
What are you doing during the inspections? What will you be looking for?	11
If I report borers, or you find borers in my tree, are you going to cut it down?.....	12
If my tree looks unhealthy, can you tell me what's wrong with it?	12
I have seen PSHB symptoms on a public tree in a street or park. Should I report it?.....	12
What is DPIRD doing to manage general garden biosecurity when visiting between properties?	12
Research and treatments for PSHB	12
Is there any treatment for PSHB?.....	12
I don't want my tree to be cut down, can I use a chemical?.....	13
Will there be more research funding for shot-hole borer?.....	13
What will the research projects focus on?	13
What other research is being undertaken in Western Australia?.....	13
Can I join the chemical trial?	14
Which chemicals are you trialling? Are they safe?.....	14
Actions to protect trees and minimise spread	14
How can I protect my trees?	14
What can I plant that is safe from PSHB?.....	14
How can I help?	15

Transition to management

Why can't polyphagous shot-hole borer be eradicated?

Based on the latest scientific data and advice from leading plant biosecurity experts, the National Management Group (NMG) has determined it is no longer technically feasible to eradicate polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) from WA.

Determining factors include the difficulty in detecting and controlling borer infestations at an early stage before the pest can reproduce, and the lack of available effective chemical treatments for eradication.

Ongoing eradication would require the removal of a significant number of trees from Perth's urban canopy and is unlikely to be successful.

As a result of this decision, the response to PSHB in WA has now transitioned to the next phase.

How will management differ from eradication?

The national response to shot-hole borer has not stopped.

The response is transitioning from an eradication strategy to long-term management over an 18-month period.

A summary of the Transition to Management Plan is available on dpiird.wa.gov.au/pshb

A key focus of the transition to management will be the targeted management of shot-hole borer infestations to stop the spread of the pest and help protect WA's regional areas and horticultural industry.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will work closely with industry, community and local government partners to build the knowledge, skills and capacity required to manage PSHB in the long term.

Early reporting of shot-hole borer, particularly in the outer metropolitan area, remains as important as ever and DPIRD is urging people to continue to look for and report signs of PSHB to the department through the MyPestGuide® reporter app or the Pest and Disease Information Service.

Who will coordinate the Transition to Management Response?

DPIRD is leading the transition to management phase in WA and is working closely with industry, community and local government to build the knowledge, skills and capacity to manage PSHB into the future.

How long will the Transition to Management Plan be in place?

The national Transition to Management Plan will guide the transition from eradication to the long-term management of PSHB in Western Australia over an 18-month period, ending 1 January 2027.

How will the Transition to Management Plan be funded?

All Australian governments are contributing to the cost of this phase of the national response.

Will trees continue to be removed under transition to management?

Targeted surveillance and management, including pruning and removal, of high-risk infested trees will be an important element of the transition phase. These activities will be focused on minimising the risk of spread beyond the Perth metropolitan area.

Will the Quarantine Area remain in place?

The Quarantine Area for shot-hole borer remains in place. The community's support is vital to help stop the spread of PSHB. All Perth residents and businesses must follow the Quarantine Area restrictions to help protect WA's horticultural and regional areas.

As of Friday November 14 2025, there will be update zones in place within the Quarantine Area. Please go to the Quarantine Area section of the FAQs for further details.

A full list of Quarantine requirements can be found on dpird.wa.gov.au/pshb

One of these restrictions applies to moving untreated wood. Untreated wood, including firewood, and living plants *cannot* be moved outside the Quarantine Area.

DPIRD reminds people who purchase firewood to buy the wood locally and burn it where they buy it.

What will be done to protect WA's horticulture industries?

DPIRD continues to keep WA's horticulture industries informed about shot-hole borer and the work being done to minimise the risk to horticulture production areas.

The Quarantine Area covering the entire metropolitan area remains in place and movement restrictions for wood and plant material still apply.

The community's support is vital to help limit the spread of PSHB. All Perth residents and businesses must continue to follow the Quarantine Area restrictions.

What will be done to protect the WA environment?

Protecting Perth's urban tree canopy and environment from PSHB remains a high priority for WA as the national biosecurity response shifts focus from eradication to management.

As part of the 2025-26 State Budget, the State Government has committed \$6.9 million to a tree rebate program and a \$10 million grants program to increase urban canopy.

The tree rebate or "treebate" program will provide 10,000 West Australians each year with \$150 rebates to plant native trees

The \$10 million grants will be delivered over four years and enable community groups to get involved in improving the urban greening and canopy cover in their local streets and suburbs.

These initiatives build on the State Government's \$7.2 million WA Tree Recovery Program to help revegetate Perth's urban canopy impacted by shot-hole borer.

This program will fund local governments and residential landowners to replant trees that have been removed due to shot-hole borer.

For more information visit [WA Tree Recovery - Local Government Grant Program](#)

The State Government has also provided an additional \$1.6 million in grants under the Urban Greening Grants Program to 16 local government across Perth and Peel to plant more than 5,000 trees and 130,000 understorey species.

Who will cover the cost of removing infested trees under the transition to management?

Under the national Transition to Management response plan, tree removal and pruning in the Management Zone of the Quarantine Area has been discontinued; responsibility for tree management lies with landowners and managers, supported by DPIRD's advice and training. Landholders in the management zone will not be required to remove trees affected by the borer.

Removal and pruning of shot-hole borer infested trees in the Containment Zone will be undertaken by DPIRD on a case-by-case basis.

My tree was designated for removal during the eradication phase, what happens now?

DPIRD is working directly with owners of infested trees that were designated for pruning or removal during the eradication phase of the response. In these cases, landowners will have the option for DPIRD to prune or remove the tree at no cost, or to retain and manage the tree themselves.

Should shot-hole borer still be reported?

Yes. Reporting continues to be a crucial component of shot-hole borer management.

DPIRD encourages people to continue to look for and report signs of shot-hole borer through the MyPestGuide® reporter app or the Pest and Disease Information Service.

Early reporting of shot-hole borer, particularly in the outer metropolitan area and outside the Quarantine Area, is as important as ever.

Quarantine Area

What is a Quarantine Area Notice?

A Quarantine Area Notice (QAN) has been issued under regulation 60 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013*.

The QAN describes the boundary of the Quarantine Area (QA) which includes the entire Perth metropolitan area. The QA is divided into two zones (Management Zone and Containment Zone).

The QAN outlines the restrictions in place for each zone, to minimise the risk of spreading PSHB.

Further information including an interactive map of the Quarantine Area is available on dpiird.wa.gov.au/pshb.

The Quarantine Area Notice was updated on 14 November 2025 to align with operational priorities under the transition to management phase.

The Quarantine Area is split into two zones:

- **Management Zone** which covers the inner metropolitan area.
- **Containment Zone** which is the area from the edge of the Management Zone to the Quarantine Area boundary.

Movement restrictions on firewood, green waste, live plants and untreated plant material still apply; these controls are fundamental to helping protect WA's horticultural and regional areas.

How do I find out if I am in the Management Zone or Containment Zone?

To find out which zone you are in, enter your address into the interactive Quarantine Area map on the PSHB webpage: dpird.wa.gov.au/pshb. The map provides information on which zone you are in and what the restrictions are for your area.

What are the Quarantine requirements for each zone?

The Quarantine Area is split into two zones, with movement restrictions and requirements for unseasoned wood and living plants:

Management Zone:

- cannot move untreated or unseasoned **wood** outside the **Management Zone**, unless chipped to pieces that are 2.5 cm or less in diameter.
- cannot **move plant materials**, including living plants, that are greater than 2 cm in diameter outside the **Management Zone**.
- must ensure any machinery used to handle wood or plant material is cleaned before it can be moved outside the **Management Zone**.
- can move wood or plant materials, including living plants, **within the Management Zone**.

Containment Zone:

- cannot move untreated or unseasoned **wood** outside the **Quarantine Area**, unless chipped to pieces that are 2.5 cm or less in diameter.
- cannot move plant materials, including living plants, that are greater than 2 cm in diameter outside the **Quarantine Area**.
- must ensure any machinery used to handle wood or plant material is cleaned before it can be moved outside the **Quarantine Area**.
- can move wood, plant materials and living plants, **into the Management Zone and within the Containment Zone**.

Why are there two different Zones?

The Quarantine Area is divided into two zones to increase protection for Perth's urban tree canopy, WA's forests and agricultural industries.

The Management Zone includes suburbs within the inner Perth metropolitan area that have higher levels of infestation. Quarantine restrictions to stop the movement of wood and plant material from the Management Zone are in place to help stop the spread of PSHB from these suburbs.

The Containment Zone includes suburbs within Perth's outer metropolitan area that have fewer or no infested trees. The Containment Zone acts as a 'buffer zone' between areas of higher infestations and the remainder of the State. Heightened surveillance is underway in

the outer metropolitan area to stop the spread of PSHB and help protect WA's regional areas.

What material does the Quarantine Area Notice (QAN) apply to?

The QAN applies to wood, green waste and plant material.

Wood means wood that is not treated.

Timber or wood that has been treated or seasoned for more than six months is not considered to be PSHB risk material and is not included in the definition of wood under the QAN. This includes:

- Firewood that has been seasoned for more than 6 months
- Treated or seasoned timber or wood used for construction, fencing or furniture.

Green waste includes cut branches or prunings, bark, plant mulch or wood chips. It does not include lawn clippings.

Plants means any plant or plant part (including plant cutting) with stems greater than 2 cm in diameter.

Machinery means any vehicle, equipment or other mechanical apparatus of any kind that has been used in relation to arboriculture, gardening, mulching, wood chipping or handling of any other wood.

What if I cannot meet these requirements?

If you are unable to meet the requirements of the QAN, the movement of risk material must be made in accordance with a Direction Notice issued by an authorised inspector.

The process includes an inspection by an authorised officer, who will conduct a risk assessment and issue an inspectors' direction if certain conditions can be met.

How do I apply to move host material?

To schedule an inspection and commence the process, email pshb@dpird.wa.gov.au with the following information:

- Your name and contact details.
- Business name (if applicable).
- Details of the material you wish to move.
- Locations where you wish to move the material to and from.
- Date you wish to undertake the movement of wood or plant material.

Are succulents and Cacti subject to the Quarantine Area Notice?

No. Succulents and cacti are not hosts for the shot-hole borer and not subject to the Quarantine Area restrictions.

What is a PSHB host species?

PSHB hosts are plants species that have been recorded as being attacked by the beetle. There are over 500 plant species documented worldwide to be a host for the shot-hole borer.

The host species list contains both reproductive hosts and non-reproductive hosts:

- **Reproductive host** species are more susceptible to damage from the beetle as PSHB can successfully establish the fungus and reproduce in the plant. Some reproductive hosts can be killed by PSHB.
- **Non-reproductive hosts** can be attacked by PSHB, but the fungus does not establish, the beetle is unable to create breeding galleries and reproduce.

A full list of host species can be found at dpird.wa.gov.au/pshb

Movement of wood and plant material

Will my local council continue collecting green waste (bins and verge collections)?

Yes, you can dispose of green waste via bins and verge collection services.

I have plant material in a skip bin, trailer, etc. How can I dispose of this?

If the waste is located within the Quarantine Area (QA), you will need to dispose of it at a facility that is also located within the same zone. A map of the QA, including the boundary between zones, is published on the Department's website dpird.wa.gov.au/pshb.

In certain cases, green waste can be disposed of at an approved facility outside the QA and needs to be transported in a fully sealed and covered skip bin, trailer or truck. To find out if a facility is approved for green waste disposal under the QAN exemption, check the list of [Approved Waste Management Facilities](#).

If unintentional or inappropriate disposal of PSHB host plants and material occurs, or is suspected to have occurred, please immediately contact the Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) via email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au or phone 9368 3080.

Can I bring plants into the Quarantine Area?

Yes, plants can enter but cannot leave the QA unless they meet the requirements in the QAN. We do not recommend introducing PSHB preferred host species or material into the QA. Transiting / driving through the QA is allowed (providing the plants have not been sourced from inside the QA and are transported in a fully sealed or covered trailer or truck).

I deliver firewood. What are the restrictions?

Firewood that has been seasoned for more than 6 months is not considered PSHB risk material and not included in the definition of wood under the QAN.

The following movement restrictions apply for firewood that has been recently felled or not seasoned for longer than 6 months.

Quarantine Area Management Zone:

Untreated or unseasoned firewood:

- can be moved **into** Management Zone
- can be moved **within** Management Zone
- **cannot leave** Management Zone
- any machinery used to handle wood and plant material must be cleaned before it can be moved outside Management Zone

Quarantine Area Containment Zone:

Untreated or unseasoned firewood:

- can be moved **into** Containment Zone from outside the Quarantine Area
- can be moved **within** Containment Zone
- **cannot leave** the Quarantine Area
- any machinery used to handle wood and plant material must be cleaned before it can be moved outside the Quarantine Area

A map of the quarantine area, including the boundary between zones, is published on the Department's website dpird.wa.gov.au/pshb.

Does PSHB pose a risk to stacked timbers, wooden outdoor furniture, decking or timbers in my home? Can I move these outside of the Quarantine Area?

Treated or seasoned (greater than 6 months) timber or wood products used for construction, fencing, furniture or packaging and pallets are not considered PSHB host material and not subject to QA wood movement restrictions.

What are the restrictions for sawmillers, woodturners and those who handle/process green timber?

Untreated or recently felled wood can be host material for the shot-hole borer. For this reason, we encourage those who handle or process green timber to contact the Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) via email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au or phone 9368 3080 for an inspection and assessment.

I trade/sell plants and my business is located within the Quarantine Area, can I still sell plants?

Yes, you can continue to sell plants as long as you meet the requirements of the QAN. Living plants with stems greater than 2 cm diameter must not leave the QA except under specific conditions (specified in the [Quarantine Area Notice](#) exemptions for the movement of host material by incorporated associations).

The following movement restrictions apply for living plants with stems greater than 2 cm diameter:

Quarantine Area Management Zone:

Untreated or unseasoned firewood:

- can be moved **into** Management Zone
- can be moved **within** Management Zone
- **cannot leave** Management Zone
- any machinery used to handle wood and plant material must be cleaned before it can be moved outside Management Zone

Quarantine Area Containment Zone:

Untreated or unseasoned firewood:

- can be moved **into** Containment Zone from outside the Quarantine Area
- can be moved **within** Containment Zone
- **cannot leave** the Quarantine Area
- any machinery used to handle wood and plant material must be cleaned before it can be moved outside the Quarantine Area

A map of the quarantine area, including the boundary between zones, is published on the Department's website dpiird.wa.gov.au/pshb.

Living plants may be moved when inspected and found free of any signs or symptoms of shot-hole borer infestation, by a person who is certified as completing the Department's training on PSHB and when moved within 7 days of that inspection. To register and gain access to this course contact plantbiosecuritypolicy@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

Mulch

Is it safe to continue using wood mulch in my garden?

DPIRD advises gardeners to purchase wood mulch from reputable suppliers. Commercially bagged mulch, including non-wood mulch and wood mulch produced from non-PSHB host species (such as pine) does not pose a risk of spreading the pest.

DPIRD recommends that gardeners do not purchase mulch from sources that cannot reasonably demonstrate the material has been suitably processed or confirm its origin (see below).

Infested plant material removed by DPIRD is chipped to pieces 2.5 cm or smaller; which has been internationally proven to kill 99% of beetles. The chipped material is then securely transported to a facility where it undergoes hot composting, ensuring that the risk of PSHB survival is reduced even further.

Can PSHB be spread in mulch and/or compost?

Wood mulch that has been chipped to pieces 2.5 cm or smaller does not pose a risk of spreading PSHB.

Wood mulch sourced from outside the Perth metropolitan area does not pose a risk of spreading PSHB.

Wood mulch made from tree species such as pine that are not hosts for the shot-hole borer does not pose a risk of spreading PSHB.

Commercial compost does not pose a risk of spreading PSHB as the hot composting process, which reaches temperatures over 55°C, kills the beetle and its associated fungi.

What is a reputable supplier of mulch?

Reputable suppliers include commercial and retail garden and landscape supply stores and businesses. If you are unsure, ask your supplier where the mulch has been sourced from and whether they are complying with the PSHB Quarantine Area requirements.

What is an un reputable source of mulch?

Unreputable sources of mulch include backyard sellers and those found on online platforms such as Facebook Marketplace and Gumtree. Mulch from these sources may not have been suitably processed and is of unknown origin.

Is it safe to buy/receive free mulch from my local government?

Throughout the PSHB response, DPIRD has been advising and working closely with local governments regarding mulch and wood movement restrictions to limit the spread of the

pest. DPIRD has deployed PSHB traps at local government green waste facilities across the Perth metropolitan area to monitor for detections of the shot-hole borer. If you are unsure or concerned about the safety of using mulch from your local government, please contact them directly.

DPIRD removed a PSHB infested tree and left the mulch on site, will this allow PSHB to spread?

The process of chipping infested trees to pieces 2.5 cm or smaller has been proven to kill 99% of PSHB. In a small number of cases those chips may be left on site. It is acceptable practice to leave those wood chips on site to be heated by the sun, a process called solarisation, ensuring the risk of PSHB survival is reduced even further.

PSHB inspections and surveillance

Will my property be inspected? Will all properties in the Quarantine Area (QA) be inspected?

Inspections and surveillance activities are focusing on private and public land in the Containment Zone. These activities are guided by an overarching surveillance strategy, with the aim of slowing the spread of PSHB and helping protect WA's regional areas and horticulture industry.

If Field Surveillance Officers visit your property, please allow them to inspect the trees and plants in both your front and backyard. If you aren't home, they will leave a calling card in the mailbox. Please call the phone number provided to schedule a convenient time for an inspection.

If your property has not been inspected, don't worry. Please monitor your trees and report any signs of borer activity via the [MyPestGuide® Reporter app](#) or contact the Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) on 08 9368 3080 or padis@dpird.wa.gov.au. Please include a photo of the suspected borer activity (with a ruler or pen for scale).

I don't have any of the top hosts. Do you still need to inspect my property?

Although PSHB has preferred hosts, over 500 species of plants have been reported as hosts of PSHB globally, including more than 100 reproductive hosts. Therefore, an inspection may still be necessary.

What are you doing during the inspections? What will you be looking for?

During an inspection, the Field Surveillance Officers will check host plants on your property for signs and symptoms of shot-hole borer. Please allow access to your backyard via a side gate or garage and restrain any pets during the visit.

If surveillance officers find suspect symptoms of PSHB, they will request permission to take a small sample from the tree to be tested at our laboratory. The staff will not be able to confirm the presence of shot-hole borer at this initial visit.

If the sample tests positive for PSHB, you will be contacted by a DPIRD officer and guided through the next steps.

If I report borers, or you find borers in my tree, are you going to cut it down?

The presence of PSHB does not necessarily result in removal of the plant or tree unless it poses a significant risk to the further spread of the shot-hole borer.

If my tree looks unhealthy, can you tell me what's wrong with it?

Our Field Surveillance Officers are exclusively looking for signs of shot-hole borer and are unable to diagnose or provide comments regarding your tree's general health during a visit.

Tree health enquiries are complex and poor tree health or death often has multiple contributing causes, including pests, disease, and environmental stress.

I have seen PSHB symptoms on a public tree in a street or park. Should I report it?

Yes. If you see signs of PSHB please report the symptoms as soon as possible via the [MyPestGuide® Reporter app](#) or contact the Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) on 08 9368 3080 or padis@dpird.wa.gov.au. Please include a photo of the suspected borer activity (with a ruler or pen for scale).

What is DPIRD doing to manage general garden biosecurity when visiting between properties?

Field equipment, including tools used to sample from trees are regularly cleaned and disinfected. Field Surveillance Officers take measures to reduce the risk of soil-borne or plant disease transfer between properties, as well as practicing good personal hygiene.

Research and treatments for PSHB

Is there any treatment for PSHB?

PSHB infestations can only be effectively treated through pruning or removal of infested branches, stems or trees, and subsequent chipping to pieces less than 2.5cm.

Currently, there are no proven effective chemical treatments for curing PSHB infestations or eradicating the pest, and there are no chemical products registered for use against PSHB in Australia.

Chemical treatments are generally ineffective because:

- The beetles do not feed directly on the tree tissue, instead they feed from the *Fusarium* fungus that they farm inside the tree.
- Bark sprays do not penetrate the tree enough to reach the beetle.
- Systemic insecticides and fungicides are unable to reach the beetle within the tree due to the disruption in the trees vascular system caused by the symbiotic *Fusarium* fungus carried by PSHB.

Some chemical treatments are being trialled and may help prevent infestation or manage the impacts of infestation on trees.

I don't want my tree to be cut down, can I use a chemical?

Unfortunately, there are no proven effective chemical treatments for curing PSHB. Under the transition to management, only trees that pose a high risk of spreading PSHB will still need to be pruned or removed.

DPIRD will work directly with any landowners and managers where trees are identified that need to be pruned or removed to manage the spread of shot-hole borer.

Will there be more research funding for shot-hole borer?

The State Government is investing \$2.17 million towards new research which aims to improve detection, surveillance and control methods for shot-hole borer.

The WA Agricultural Research Collaboration research projects are exploring improved surveillance and treatment options to support the long-term management of PSHB. These projects bring together scientific expertise from the State's leading universities, DPIRD and CSIRO to investigate how the latest science, technology and learnings can assist in responding to this pest.

The more we can learn about PSHB and its associated fungi, the better equipped WA will be to protect and support WA's urban tree canopy and horticulture industry.

What will the research projects focus on?

The first research project, led by Curtin University, will develop predictive models and risk maps to help prioritise surveillance and control efforts, ensuring efficient resource allocation and enhanced decision-making.

The University of Western Australia will lead a project investigating innovative chemical and biological control strategies against the pest, as well as improved pest detection by identifying new chemical lures.

A Murdoch University-led project will further examine the host range of shot-hole borer in WA and look at innovative technologies, such as remote sensing, AI-driven risk mapping and geospatial tools to improve early detection of the borer.

For more information about the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer Research Program, visit the [WAARC website](#).

What other research is being undertaken in Western Australia?

DPIRD is working with international and local scientists to support further research under WA conditions.

DPIRD continues to work with the City of Perth and the City of Vincent to explore treatment options used overseas to help minimise the loss of trees.

The trials, which started in October 2023, are being undertaken at several locations in known shot-hole borer infestation areas in the inner metropolitan area. The research includes direct trunk injections and paint-on applications of insecticides on preferred host trees.

More work is required to determine the effectiveness of these measures to manage PSHB infestations.

The City of Canning is also undertaking a study using systemically-injected chemicals to manage shot-hole borer infestations in host trees.

DPIRD will continue to liaise with local governments about the results of other chemical trials being undertaken and any potential treatments that show signs of success in managing shot-hole borer.

DPIRD is also liaising with global experts in California and South Africa to understand the latest research on treatment and preventative options.

Can I join the chemical trial?

The Department's chemical trials are being conducted on public properties, in conjunction with the associated local government.

Which chemicals are you trialling? Are they safe?

DPIRD is currently trialling chemicals called Emamectin benzoate and Bifenthrin. When applied correctly and according to supplier guidelines, these products present a low risk to pollinating insects, such as bees, and present no risk to human health.

Actions to protect trees and minimise spread

How can I protect my trees?

The best option for protecting your trees is improving general tree health and regularly checking them for signs of pests and diseases.

- Use grass clippings or compost in your garden.
- Only use wood mulch that has been sourced from a reputable supplier.
- Disinfect pruning tools to minimise the chance of transferring diseases.
 - 70% ethanol is the preferred disinfectant.
- Avoid moving plant material or wood products from known PSHB infestation areas.

If you see signs of PSHB or any other pests report them as soon as possible via the [MyPestGuide® Reporter app](#) or contact the Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) on 08 9368 3080 or padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au. Please include a photo of the suspected borer activity (with a ruler or pen for scale).

What can I plant that is safe from PSHB?

PSHB has a known host range of more than 500 plant species globally, with over 200 plant species found to be hosts in WA. To determine a particular plant species' susceptibility to PSHB, check the [WA PSHB Host List](#).

Reproductive hosts are susceptible plants in which PSHB can successfully establish fungus galleries and reproduce. Infested reproductive hosts can die within two years.

Non-reproductive hosts are plants that are attacked by PSHB, but the beetles have not been recorded as establishing breeding galleries. The fungus may or may not cause disease in these species.

In WA, the top three reproductive host trees for PSHB are the box elder maple (*Acer negundo*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and coral trees (*Erythrina x sykesii*). DPIRD recommends that you avoid planting these host trees as they are preferred by PSHB.

The [WA PSHB Host List](#) is updated frequently as new information emerges.

How can I help?

Assist with inspections as required.

Inspections of host plants are being conducted in targeted areas. Reports of suspect borer activity are helping to inform DPIRD's surveillance activities.

Look and report!

If you see suspect borer activity, please report it via:

- [MyPestGuide® Reporter app](#), or
- [MyPestGuide® Website](#), or
- Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS): (08) 9368 3080, or
- Email: padis@dpird.wa.gov.au.

MyPestGuide® Reporting Tips.

To help with pest identification please include:

- Photos showing the whole tree/plant, suspected bore holes, beetles, or symptoms (include a ruler or pen next to any borer holes to help estimate the size).
- Information on the pest location, plant species or common name (if known), and any concerns/changes you've noticed.

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), 2025.

