

PESTNews



SOUTH AFRICAN PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION
SUID-AFRIKAANSE PLAAGBEHEERVERENIGING

SAPCA
(NPC)

20 AUGUST 2026

SAPCA ROADSHOW
Eastern Cape Gqeberha

MEET & GREET
Mpumalanga

OLEANDER MOTH

SHOT HOLE BORER

envu Professional
Pest Management



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THE OLEANDER HAWK-MOTH

(Daphnis nerii) in South Africa



Have you ever spotted an Oleander hawkmoth drifting silently through the warm evening air? This striking species, *Daphnis nerii*, is most often recorded in the warmer provinces of South Africa, including KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga. A migratory moth by nature, it occasionally appears further south after seasonal movements. Its beauty is unmistakable— delicate swirls of green, olive, and pink create a leaf-like camouflage that allows it to disappear almost completely against foliage.

Beyond its elegance, the Oleander hawkmoth is fascinating for its life cycle and adaptations. Its caterpillar feeds primarily on oleander (*Nerium oleander*), a highly toxic plant, yet the larvae not only tolerate these toxins but may even use them for protection. The caterpillars themselves are equally eye-catching— bright green with bold, eye-like spots that deter predators. As a member of the Sphingidae family, the adult moth is

a powerful flier, capable of hovering like a hummingbird while feeding on nectar, playing a quiet but important role in pollination.

In South Africa, sightings of this moth are often seasonal and fleeting, making

each encounter feel special. Whether admired in its caterpillar form or as a swift, nocturnal visitor, the Oleander hawk-moth is a perfect example of how even common garden plants can host extraordinary biodiversity.



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SHOT HOLE BORER

Struggle Against the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer in South Africa



*Smaller than a grain of rice, the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (*Euwallacea fornicatus*, or PSHB) represents one of the most serious biosecurity challenges to face South Africa's urban forests, native ecosystems, and agricultural sectors in recent history. Originating in Southeast Asia, this tiny ambrosia beetle has ignited what researchers identify as the largest outbreak of its kind within an invaded range globally.*

The Anatomy of an Invasion

The story of PSHB in South Africa began quietly. While officially confirmed on London Plane trees in KwaZulu-Natal in 2017, genetic profiling traced its arrival back to Durban as early as 2012. Within less than a decade, landmark syntheses led by researchers at the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria, Stellenbosch University, and Rhodes University documented its spread across eight of South Africa's nine provinces.



The beetle's destructive potential relies on a lethal mutualism. Female beetles carry a microscopic fungal partner *Fusarium euwallaceae* inside from the tree specialized head organs called mycangia. As the female bores into a tree's heartwood to carve out egg galleries, she inoculates the wood with the fungus. The fungus serves as food for the beetle and its larvae, but it chokes the host tree's vascular network, leading to *Fusarium* dieback and, ultimately, structural failure and death.

Biological Advantages & Host Range

PSHB possesses a unique combination of biological traits that make it a formidable invader:

Incredible Reproductive Autonomy: Operating on a haplodiploid mating system, an unmated virgin female can lay unfertilized eggs that hatch into males.

She then mates with her male offspring to produce female progeny, allowing a single individual to initiate a thriving colony without suffering inbreeding depression.

Broad Host Spectrum: Research has identified over 130 plant species attacked by PSHB in South Africa. Crucially, at least 48 species (including 19 indigenous trees like the Assegai *Curtisia dentata* and Coral Tree *Erythrina lysistemon*, alongside introduced species like Boxelder) act as reproductive hosts succumbing to infection while acting as high-volume "pest amplifiers."

Anthropogenic Spread: While adult female beetles fly only short distances, human transport of untreated firewood and green waste has rapidly carried colonies hundreds of kilometers across provincial borders.

Mitigating the infestation has mobilized a coordinated national response involving the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) alongside municipal teams in Tshwane, Johannesburg, and Cape Town. Because chemical treatments deep inside living wood remain largely ineffective, strategy focuses on strict quarantine protocols, public awareness around firewood movement, solarization of infested wood, and ongoing biological control research to safeguard the country's urban and natural canopy for the future.



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- + Drive seasonal sales growth



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Don't wait for spring pests. Use winter to create new business opportunities.

July and August are the ideal months to help customers prepare for crawling and flying insect activity before spring arrives.

As South Africa transitions from winter into spring, pest activity begins to build long before customers notice it. Rising temperatures encourage crawling and flying insects to become more active, moving closer to food sources, moisture and shelter. For businesses, this seasonal shift increases the risk of infestations from cockroaches, ants, flies and other nuisance pests.

For pest management professionals, this period presents more than a pest control challenge; it presents a valuable business opportunity.

Many customers only react once pest activity becomes visible. By then, infestations are often established, complaints are increasing, and corrective treatments can be more complex and costly. July and August provide the ideal opportunity to start proactive conversations about spring pest prevention, positioning your services as a strategic investment rather than a reactive expense.

Spring Shield Benefits



Earlier Client Engagement

Start conversations before pest problems become visible.



More Inspection Opportunities

Identify sanitation, exclusion and pest risk issues early.



More Preventative Programs

Shift customers from reactive treatments to proactive pest management.



Stronger Customer Retention

Build trusted advisor relationships through seasonal planning.



Additional Revenue Opportunities

Create new service recommendations before peak pest season.

Spring Shield is a proactive pest management approach designed to help customers reduce the risk of seasonal infestations before they become a problem, while helping pest management professionals create additional service opportunities.

A successful Spring Shield program begins with a comprehensive site inspection to identify:

- + **Potential pest harbourage areas**
- + **Entry points and structural vulnerabilities**
- + **Sanitation risks**
- + **Current pest pressure**
- + **Conditions that may support future infestations**

These insights enable proactive recommendations before pest populations increase in spring.

Whether servicing food manufacturing facilities, warehouses, hospitality venues, healthcare institutions or commercial properties, early intervention helps customers reduce pest risks while creating additional value through preventive pest management.





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Professional Solutions for Crawling and Flying Insect Control

To support your Spring Shield programme, Envu offers a portfolio of professional solutions designed to deliver targeted and effective crawling and flying insect control.

Maxforce® Platin Gel

Provides advanced bait technology for targeted cockroach management in sensitive commercial environments where precision and reliability are critical.

Maxforce® Prime Gel

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Maxforce® Quantum

Delivers highly attractive liquid bait technology for sweet-feeding ant management and colony control, making it an ideal addition to preventive spring programmes.

QuickBait® Spray

Offers fast-acting fly control for waste-handling areas, loading bays, food-processing facilities and other high-risk environments where fly pressure can increase rapidly as temperatures rise.

Temprid® SC

Creates a protective barrier that helps prevent pests from entering the premises. Provides versatile management of cockroaches, ants, flies, mosquitoes, fleas, ticks, beetles and other nuisance pests.

Premise® 200 SC

Provides professional termite management solutions for both preventative and corrective treatment programmes in structures as well as in turf.

Spring Shield in 4 Steps



1. INSPECT

Identify risks before spring pest activity increases.



2. ASSESS

Review sanitation, exclusion and current pest pressures.



3. RECOMMEND

Provide tailored preventative solutions.



4. PROTECT

Help customers stay ahead of seasonal pest pressure.

Stay Ahead of Spring Pest Pressure

- + More Inspections.
- + More Prevention.
- + More Business.

Ready to strengthen your Pest Management program?



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Explore the Envu Crawling & Flying Insect portfolio & discover how proactive spring pest management can help protect your customers and grow your business.



Use insecticides responsibly. Always read the label and product information before use and follow all warnings and precautions.

Temprid® SC Reg. No. L2853 Act No. 36 of 1947 Active Ingredients: Imidacloprid (neonicotinoid) 251 g/l and Beta-cyfluthrin (pyrethroid) 125 g/l. WARNING: Maxforce® Ants and Cockroach Bait Granules Reg. No. L5658 Act No. 36 of 1947 Active Ingredients: Hydramethylnon 10 g/kg. DANGER: Maxforce® Platin Gel Reg. No. L9986 Act No. 36 of 1947 Active Ingredients: Clothianidin (neonicotinoid) 10 g/kg. WARNING: Maxforce® Prime Gel Reg. No. L8680 Act No. 36 of 1947 Active Ingredients: Imidacloprid (chloronicotinyl) 215 g/kg. WARNING: Maxforce® Quantum Reg. No. L8460 Act No. 36 of 1947 Active Ingredients: Imidacloprid (chloronicotinyl) 0.3 g/kg. WARNING: QuickBait® Spray Reg. No. L7802 Act No. 36 of 1947 Active Ingredients: Imidacloprid 100 g/kg and Tricosene 1 g/kg. WARNING: Premise® 200 SC Reg. No. L7451 Act No. 36 of 1947 Active Ingredients: Imidacloprid (chloronicotinyl) 200 g/l. WARNING: Registration Holder: 2022 Environmental Science ZA (Pty) Ltd, AMR Building 3, Ground Floor 9 Concorde E Road, Bedfordview, 2007, South Africa. Maxforce® Platin Registration Holder: Bayer (Pty) Ltd, P.O. Box 143, ISANDO 1600, SOUTH AFRICA TEL: +27 (0) 921 5911. Temprid®, Maxforce®, QuickBait® and Premise® are registered trademarks of the Bayer Group. MARKETED BY: Envu. Envu and the Envu logo are trademarks owned by Environmental Science U.S. LLC or one of its affiliates. ©2026 Environmental Science U.S. LLC.

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Effectiveness: ★★★★★



Colony control: ★★★★★



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Registration Number: L8727 Act No. 36 of 1947

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SAPCA (NPC)

ESTABLISHED IN 1964

VISION

The Professional Association for the South African Pest Control Industry acting in the interest of our members.

MISSION

- To foster professionalism and ethical conduct among our members.
- To establish and uphold minimum industry standards that protect public health and safety while ensuring compliance within the pest control industry.
- To liaise and engage with government departments and regulatory authorities on behalf of our members and the South African pest control industry.
- To grow and strengthen SAPCA's presence and representation across South Africa.

VALUES

SAPCA promotes the highest standards of professionalism within the industry, and it will be expected of all SAPCA members to uphold and comply with our Good Practice Standards at all times.



SOUTH AFRICAN PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION
SUID-AFRIKAANSE PLAAGBEHEERVENIGING

SAPCA (NPC)

SAPCA **EASTERN CAPE** ROADSHOW

GQEBERHA | 21 MAY 2025

The Professional Association for the South African Pest Control Industry acting in the interest of our members.

SAPCA extends its sincere appreciation to all delegates, presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors. Their valued support and participation contributed to the success of the 2026 SAPCA Roadshow, held at The Willows Conference Centre in the Eastern Cape.

We had presentations covering key topics including insect and rodent resistance, food safety, quality assurance, regulatory compliance, waste management, methyl bromide fumigation regulations, bed bug management, and snake handling. We extend our gratitude to our sponsors Henchem, Pathogen & Environmental Solutions (PES), Synvita, Envu, Ensystex, Dräger, and Coopers Environmental Science for their support, which helped make the Roadshow a resounding success. We also thank our expert speakers for sharing their expertise and insights. And to wrap up the successful event, a show-stopping performance by "Indoors with the Lindoors"









SAPCA ROADSHOW GUEST SPEAKERS

Thank you for sharing your time and expertise. Your insights were truly inspiring and greatly appreciated.



LEONARD HENNING

SAPCA Quality Assurance Program



MARK EDWARDES

Insect Resistance and Pest Control



SIMON LOWE

Alternatives to Coagulants and Resistance in Rodents



MARLI VAN DER SPUY

Ensuring Food Safety Through Pest Control and Trusted Service Providers



CHRISTO JOOSTE

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MARK MARSHALL

Snakes as part of Our Biological Partner and how you can help as Pest Controller

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MEET & GREET Mpumalanga

A massive thank you to everyone who joined us for the SAPCA Meet & Greet at Pumbaa Wildlife Park in Nelspruit!

What a great turnout and fantastic afternoon! We extend our deepest gratitude to all the expert speakers for sharing their knowledge and to our generous sponsors for their vital support in bringing this event to life. Thank you for making the day a resounding success, and we look forward to seeing you all at the next SAPCA gathering.



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO JOINED US AND TO OUR SPONSORS.



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