

FABI TEAM SURVEYS JOHANNESBURG GARDENS FOR PSHB INFESTATIONS

A team of 13 FABlans under the leadership of Prof. Wilhelm de Beer and Dr Trudy Paap conducted a survey to determine infestation levels of the Polyphagous Shothole Borer (PSHB) on street and garden trees in the Johannesburg suburb of Hurlingham on 4 May. The other team members included Dr Irene Barnes, Morné Booij-Liewes, Shawn Fell, Izette Greyling, Quentin Guignard, Ginna Granados, Darryl Herron, Prof Brett Hurley, Sandisiwe Jali, Kira Lynn, Wilma Nel and Ariska van der Nest.



The team spent the day recording infestation levels and disease symptoms but also identifying tree species not susceptible to PSHB attacks. The London plane and Chinese maple trees in streets of this and other suburbs in the Sandton area were heavily infested by the PSHB and this resulted in many of these big trees dying and numerous other species being infested. The Home Owners Association of the suburb of Hurlingham hosted the team, providing a base to work from as well as lunch and refreshments.

The project forms part of a national research project conducted in FABI to monitor the distribution and impact of this beetle, which has been reported from Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, George, Knysna and the Northern Cape.