



MEDIA RELEASE

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Farmers to be on the lookout for Fall Armyworms

The Fall Armyworm that recently invaded South Africa and established itself primarily in maize but also in sorghum, cotton, potatoes, some vegetables and in natural veld around maize fields has not yet been reported as being present in the Western Cape.

Reports of this worm have been confirmed in Limpopo, Northwest, Gauteng, Free State, Mpumalanga Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Although the worm has not yet been noticed in Knysna, the Knysna Acting Municipal Manager, Johnny Douglas wishes to alert local subsistence and commercial farmers to be aware of this Fall Armyworm and the great threat it poses to crops. "Despite a lack of presence of the worm in our area, we would like to advise our rural residents to keep a look-out for its presence. I urge our residents to take note of the warning signs recently issued by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Crop Life South Africa," Douglas said.

Scouting, detection and pest identification:

- If pheromone traps are available, they can be placed according to the manufacturers' specifications to monitor moth flights and early moth arrivals.
- Early detection is crucial; monitor by scouting crops every two days starting from the current wind direction, checking borders and centres of crop fields. Note all egg parcels, new hatchlings or young larvae penetrating the whorls.
- The larvae are quite easy to identify: looking at the larva from its head gives the appearance of a dragon fly face with the markings on the head. Four dark spots in a square are also clearly visible on the 8th segment. Their colour varies from green to dark green, pinkish, brown or dark brown with paler green longitudinal stripes.

"Information pertaining to the Fall Armyworm is readily available online and I encourage our residents who have farms or gardens to familiarise themselves with the signs of its presence to allow them to identify the signs and put control measures in place," concluded Douglas.

Should residents find any signs of the Fall Armyworms contact the Western Cape Agriculture Department, on 021 808 5111 or email: info@elsenburg.com. The Department requests that live worms be collected to allow for correct testing to be done.

ADDED INFORMATION FOR THE EDITOR

For more detailed information visit:

[http://www.potatoes.co.za/SiteResources/documents/DvH-FAW-Jan-20171%20\(5\).pdf](http://www.potatoes.co.za/SiteResources/documents/DvH-FAW-Jan-20171%20(5).pdf)

[http://www.potatoes.co.za/SiteResources/documents/DvH%20FAW%20potato%20Marble%20H
all.pdf](http://www.potatoes.co.za/SiteResources/documents/DvH%20FAW%20potato%20Marble%20H
all.pdf)

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