

**PEST MANAGEMENT  
ACADEMY  
INTERNATIONAL  
RECOGNISED SKILLS  
PROGRAMS FOR  
AUGUST-DECEMBER 2011**

**GENERAL PEST CONTROL  
PROGRAM**

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10-12 OCTOBER 2011 PRETORIA  
7-9 NOVEMBER 2011 PRETORIA  
5-7 DECEMBER 2011 PRETORIA

**WEED CONTROL**

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**PLANT PEST & DISEASES**

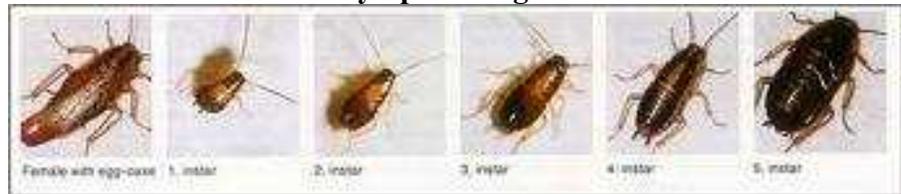
26-28 SEPT 2011 PRETORIA  
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## HOW TO TELL A LARVA FROM A NYMPH

Most immature insects are either “larvae” or “nymphs”. How do you know when to use which term? It depends on how the insect develops into an adult. Not all insects do it the same way. Some insects hatch from the egg, looking like miniatures of the adult insect that they will become. They simply grow gradually, molting (shedding their skin) several times as they increase in size. They eventually molt into sexually mature adult insects. This type of development is called *simple metamorphosis*, and the immature insects are called *nymphs*. Examples of insects with simple metamorphosis are: cockroaches, silverfish, termites, crickets, earwigs, and bed bugs.

### Nymphal Stages



### Larval Stages

Other insects have a more complex development. In this case, the insect that hatches from the egg looks very different from the adult insect that it will become. It's often wormlike in shape and is called a larva. Larvae also molt and grow large just like nymphs, but they go through an additional pupal stage before they become adult insects. This type of development is called *complete metamorphosis*.

Examples of insects with complete metamorphosis are flies, fleas, moths and butterflies, ants, bees, wasps, and beetles. Sometimes certain insect larvae are called by other descriptive names as well. For instance, a fly larva is called a maggot and a butterfly larva is called a caterpillar. To decide whether the immature insect that you're looking at should be called a larva or a nymph, just picture the adult. If the adult is similar, only larger (like a bed bug), the immature is a nymph. If the adult is far different (like a fly), the immature is a larva.

