



SPRING 2025

# Protect your investment manage biosecurity risks



## BEEHIVES MOVING SOUTH?

Risk goods, including beehives used on kiwifruit orchards, is restricted across the Cook Strait and KVH authorisation is required for these movements. Check in with your beekeeper and prompt a call to KVH to be sure any movements South are compliant.

## PATHWAYS HIGHLY COMPLIANT

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) annual survey has again showed improvements in border biosecurity compliance. Smart initiatives including the digital New Zealand traveller declarations, recognised cruise line programmes and performance-based verification of transitional facilities continue to raise the bar.

### Compliance rates July 2024 - June 2025

- 98.94% for arriving air passengers,
- 99.78% for cruise passengers,
- 99.82% for international mail,
- 92% for transitional facilities.

## WILD KIWIFRUIT SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL CONTINUES

Wild kiwifruit remains a significant threat to both the kiwifruit industry and native ecosystems. The vines act as reservoirs for pests and diseases such as Psa, and if left unchecked, can smother native bush and forestry plantations. With funding contributions from the kiwifruit industry, regional councils, and support from landowners, the programme continues to make strong progress.

Removing unpicked fruit, covering reject bins, and not disposing kiwifruit in the bush help stop birds from spreading seeds. If you spot wild kiwifruit, make a report to your local council or KVH.

*Photo below: control of large mature infestations takes place, like this one pictured (West Coast).*



## NOTICING PSA?

As an industry we continue to monitor for resistance and possible Psa evolution and adaption across all regions.

If you see unexpectedly high Psa impacts despite a good Psa management regime, contact Zespri Innovation Leader Jessie Fea [jessie.fea@zespri.com](mailto:jessie.fea@zespri.com) to discuss being part of this programme.

## NEW KVH TEAM MEMBER

Welcome Roanne



Roanne joined KVH in August as Senior Biosecurity Advisor, bringing with her a strong background in entomology and pathology.

Prior to KVH, she was a Senior Advisor at the Department of Conservation (DOC) in the Plant Pathogen Team, where she led the development of landscape scale surveillance for the detection of *Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA), the pathogen responsible for kauri dieback disease. She also developed myrtle rust monitoring programmes to better understand its impact on threatened *Myrtaceae* species.

Before DOC, Roanne was a Post-Border Biosecurity Researcher at Scion (now the Bioeconomy Science Institute) where her research focused on beetle phenology, trapping methods, insect rearing, and monitoring the impacts of invasive plant pathogens.

## AMBROSIA BEETLE SURVEY

The Bioeconomy Science Institute (BSI)'s Plant & Food Research and Scion, KVH, and Zespri are working together to survey ambrosia beetles in kiwifruit orchards in Auckland and the Bay of Plenty.

Ambrosia beetles are known to be vectors of some of the most invasive and deadly tree diseases. They are a diverse group of tiny 2-4 mm long woodboring insects in the weevil family. Unlike most woodborers that feed on the wood itself, ambrosia beetles are “fungus farmers”. The female excavates tunnels in the trunk and branches then introduces the fungal spores, which she grows to feed larvae and adults.

The aim is to build a baseline understanding of beetle and associated fungi presence in kiwifruit orchards. This allows a greater understanding of the risk to production and what species could be potential vectors for disease causing fungi like Ceratocystis if it was to arrive in New Zealand.

Traps (in place between October 2025 and March 2026), supported by visual surveys, will identify any activity.

## MOST UNWANTED TIME OF YEAR

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is one of the biggest biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry and we are now in the highest-risk period for entry into New Zealand.

Although we had a good season last year, with only 37 detections, compared to hundreds six/seven years ago, offshore populations remain high. With a number of detections having occurred last season in Australia - our closest neighbour and nearest risk - we encourage growers to be vigilant when monitoring vines and gardens and report any unusual bug.



See and read  
more about the  
BMSB here