



SPRING 2026

Targeting biosecurity risks throughout spring



BEEHIVES MOVING SOUTH?

Risk goods - including beehives used on kiwifruit orchards - are 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.

SURVEILLANCE NETWORKS EXPANDING

Exotic fruit flies: National surveillance trap numbers are up again this season, from around 7,800 to around 9,000 - the largest network in the programme's 30+ year history.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB): National surveillance trap numbers will increase from 160 to 300 traps.

KVH's industry network also lifts this year to 55 traps across seven regions. A new panel trap trialled last season detected a male BMSB in Auckland within two weeks, with no further detections since, giving confidence New Zealand remains free of an established population. Panel trap numbers will increase this season.

Border pathways are highly compliant, with 2025-26 compliance rates at:

98.92% for passengers
99.73% for international mail

YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET RESPONSE

The Auckland eradication response is entering a crucial stage, with warmer spring weather raising the risk of surviving queens emerging.

So far, 77 queens and 133 nests have been destroyed, with no detections since April.

Surveillance and trapping are ramping up across Auckland - the hornet is a serious threat to bees and the pollination services growers rely on.

Think you've spotted one? Make an online report to Biosecurity New Zealand at report.mpi.govt.nz.



Psa?

Zespri is looking for orchards with high or unusual Psa symptoms, including unexpected outbreaks despite a good spray programme, to join this year's resistance monitoring programme. Green, Gold or Red orchards, any region welcome. Contact Malita.Carle1@zespri.com.

KIWIFRUIT TRUNK DISEASE AND SANITISER UPDATE



Kiwifruit trunk diseases (KTDs) can be a growing concern as vines age and now's the time to get familiar with symptoms - patchy budbreak, dieback and swelling and cracking on trunks and canes or alongside grafts.

Mapping affected vines helps plan a progressive replacement strategy. KVH can assist with sampling and diagnostics of symptoms.

A 2026 Zespri Innovation funded project found many commonly used sanitisers are effective against the core group of KTD-associated fungi. Tool hygiene remains one of the best defences against spreading both Psa and KTDs between vines. Project results showed contact time was key:

- Methylated spirits, Aussan L44 and SteriGENE - wet blades for at least one second.
- NuronBioSafe - blades require longer wetting (up to two minutes).
- Virkon: not preferred for KTD hygiene, but remains effective against Psa.

ORCHARD SURVEILLANCE PILOT

KVH is launching a new surveillance pilot this season. Trained SPS Biota and KVH teams will be inspecting vines, shelterbelts and surrounding vegetation on selected orchards for early signs of exotic pests and disease, with Biosecurity New Zealand supporting diagnostics on any suspect finds. The pilot includes Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty orchards.

MOST UNWANTED TIME OF YEAR

New Zealand is back in its highest-risk window (September through to May) for the kiwifruit industry's two most unwanted pests: exotic fruit flies and BMSB.

Warmer temperatures, more trade pathways and increased international visitors all raise the odds of arrival.

The 2026/27 season also marks 10 years of NZ's BMSB surveillance programme.

Both pests remain absent from New Zealand - keep an eye out on-orchard and report the unusual. Catch it (if safe to do so), photograph it, and phone the hotline 24/7 on 0800 80 99 66 or make an online report report.mpi.govt.nz.



*See and read
more about the
BMSB here*