



WINTER 2026

# Protect your investment manage biosecurity risks

## BIOSECURITY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY



The 2026 KPMG Agribusiness Agenda has just been released and identified biosecurity as the number one concern for primary industry leaders for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Increasing global trade, travel and climate pressures continue to create new pathways for pests and disease to reach New Zealand. Leaders noted resilience called for biosecurity processes to be embedded within industry and repeated consistently. Early detection and rapid reporting of unusual symptoms was also seen as critical.

## YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET UPDATE

The response continues to make positive progress, with no new detections recorded since 2 April. Surveillance and response activities continue towards eradication - success would remove a significant threat to our pollinators and honeybee populations.

The numbers to date:

- 77 queens
- 3,479 worker hornets
- 1090 males
- 132 nests



## UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS REPORTS

Reports to KVH this season included wasps and wasp nests, shield bugs, egg masses and nymph stages of insects as well as vine health concerns.

Vine investigations frequently identified crown rots as the cause of vine decline or collapse with kiwifruit trunk disease (KTD) fungal complexes causal. Phytophthora species were also commonly associated with root and crown issues on sites experiencing prolonged excess soil moisture. None of the reports posed a serious biosecurity risk to the kiwifruit industry but they did build valuable information to support disease management within orchards.

Report the unusual to KVH on 0800 665 825, via our online form [www.kvh.org.nz/report\\_unusual](http://www.kvh.org.nz/report_unusual), or to the Biosecurity New Zealand hotline on 0800 80 99 66.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)  
season ending numbers

*62 live detections at the border compared  
with 40 last season.*

*Dead BMSB numbers remain high at the  
border reflecting the effectiveness of  
offshore treatment programmes.*

*Additional monitoring of Argentinian and  
Chilean pathways is in place following the  
establishment of small BMSB populations.*

## SOUTH BOUND RISK ITEMS

***Movements of plant material, grafting equipment, machinery and other risk goods, including beehives, requires authorisation by KVH before crossing the Cook Strait.***

***This Pathway Plan rule protects the Psa-V free status of the South Island.***

***Call KVH early to be sure you comply.***

# INDUSTRY BMSB SEASONAL SURVEILLANCE



This season KVH expanded industry surveillance activities, operating 32 traps across 27 locations in the Te Puke, Mount Maunganui and Tauranga areas.

An additional 26 traps were added in high-risk locations around New Zealand (Whangarei, Auckland, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, Wellington and Canterbury) with trap placement informed by new surveillance research.

New trap technologies were also tested to improve early detection capability. One male BMSB was detected in Auckland, in a new panel trap. Investigation and follow-up surveillance found no evidence of a breeding population.

## PLANT MOVEMENT PROTOCOLS AND TRACEABILITY

Before winter planting, grafting, or compost applications, check Pathway Plan requirements for nursery plants, mature plants, budwood, grafting material and compost. Registered supplier lists are available on the KVH website or call KVH before purchase.

Plant movement records (origin, destination, and parties involved) must be maintained to support plant material traceability. Robust records allow rapid response if a biosecurity risk is detected. The Onside app is one way in which industry can robustly record plant material movements.

## WOUND PROTECTANTS AND SANITISERS

Removing dead vines and diseased wood before pruning helps reduce the spread of fungal and bacterial pathogens during winter.

Diseased tissue can harbour fungal spores that spread through wind, rain splash, soil movements and contaminated pruning tools, and pathways for transfer of Psa is similarly via rain splash and contaminated tools. Unprotected wounds provide an entry point for infection.

Where vines have been struggling, inspect crowns, graft unions and girdles carefully, as infections may be present beneath the bark before external symptoms are visible.

Approved wound protectants are listed in the Zespri Crop Protection Standard, while recommended tool sanitisers are available from the KVH website under [growers/orchard-management/hygiene](#).

## DROP FRUIT BY 1 JULY

Any unpicked kiwifruit remaining on vines should be dropped and mulched by 1 July. This helps prevent seed being spread by birds and animals and reduces the risk of wild kiwifruit becoming established in surrounding areas. Prevention is easier and cheaper than control.

