

Desired outcome

To prevent wild kiwifruit establishing and reduce the spread of harmful organisms from wild kiwifruit populations into managed kiwifruit orchards, and to work collaboratively with regional authorities and other agencies, orchard owners and the community to manage wild kiwifruit.

Background

Wild kiwifruit populations are potential reservoirs for Psa-V and other harmful organisms. As wild vines are unlikely to receive any form of crop protection, they are high risk sites for potential establishment and spread of harmful organisms. This is particularly important when wild vines are accessible or in close proximity to managed orchards. For example, an increase in Psa-V inoculum levels increases the risk of disease spread by a number of pathways including but not limited to wind, water and material/people movements. Lowering Psa-V inoculum levels, and available habitat for other potentially harmful organisms, is considered by KVH to be a key part of the strategy to achieve successful kiwifruit production.

Uncontrolled wild kiwifruit plants often produce fruit containing viable seed. Infestations can then spread, mostly through bird-borne seed dispersal, increasing the size of the problem and risk over time. Wild kiwifruit is difficult to control and represents a clear case where ‘prevention is better than cure’, there is a strong economic rationale for getting on top of the problem early.

The level of risk associated with any given wild kiwifruit population will not be equal (refer to *level of risk* criteria below), and KVH will prioritise effort and work in partnership with willing regional authorities to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes and value where possible.

Relationship with regional authorities and Regional Pest Management Plans

Some regional authorities have an interest in, and take action to manage, wild kiwifruit as part of a strategy to reduce the impact of wild kiwifruit on biodiversity values. Increasingly, regional authorities are adding “wild kiwifruit” as a pest plant within their Regional Pest Management Plans (RPMPs).

The preferred position of KVH is to collaborate with regional authorities where the interests of a regional authority and KVH align (i.e. KVH interest in disease control, and regional authority interest in protection of indigenous biodiversity), to achieve a coordinated approach to wild kiwifruit surveillance, monitoring, control, compliance and related communications activities.

The opportunity for both KVH and regional authorities includes:

- achieving a greater level of overall control of wild kiwifruit, and reduced risk to values (orchard and biodiversity protection);
- achieving greater landowner cooperation, through a united approach, and ability to influence landowners from our different points of persuasion;
- leveraging our combined networks, to strengthen surveillance and encourage reporting of wild kiwifruit populations; and
- realising mutually beneficial savings by sharing costs.

KVH recognises the nature of any collaboration may differ across regions, reflecting differences in desired community outcomes and the nature of provisions (e.g., objectives, definitions and rules) within any given RPMP.

KVH will work with willing regional authorities to understand where interests align and establish terms of any collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or equivalent agreement where practical.

Pathway Plan requirements and deciding when to control wild kiwifruit

KVH defines wild kiwifruit as:

Any unmanaged plant material, self-propagated or abandoned plant of the Actinidia genus on private or public land.

Implementation of this measure will either be:

- i. achieved through voluntary agreement with the landowner or occupier (first preference); or
- ii. through use of Powers under the Pathway Plan (refer to clause 15 of the Pathway Plan, *Powers in Part 6 of Act to be used to implement Plan*) where required, including general powers to carry out any reasonable action necessary for the purpose of eradicating or managing a harmful organism, or to prevent its spread from a place; or
- iii. in accordance with a rule under a Regional Pest Management Plan, where KVH and a regional authority agree this is the best approach to achieve compliance.

KVH will determine the level of risk associated with any given wild kiwifruit population by considering:

- the proximity of nearby kiwifruit orchards i.e., wild kiwifruit adjacent to an orchard may exacerbate spread of harmful organisms to the orchard;
- the overall presence and distribution of harmful organisms in the region i.e., a priority is to prevent the spread of harmful organisms, so it is especially important that any wild populations of kiwifruit are removed to prevent or slow the spread into nearby orchards;
- whether symptoms are present or absent in the wild kiwifruit population and if present, the level of infection;
- the accessibility of wild kiwifruit infestations and potential for harmful organisms to be moved from the site e.g., via vehicles or people.

When deciding the priority associated with a population of wild kiwifruit, KVH will take account of:

- the level of risk (in relation to criteria above); and
- the relative level of risk in relation to unmanaged orchards (i.e. so KVH focuses on addressing the greatest risks first, across unmanaged orchards and wild kiwifruit sites); and
- whether the wild kiwifruit population falls under any agreement (such as a MOU) with a regional authority, and the extent of alignment between the interests of KVH and that regional authority.

Targeted implementation approach

Where the interests of KVH and a regional authority align, KVH will work in partnership with the regional authority under terms of any agreement (e.g., MOU) between the two parties. Note that the focus of KVH will be on timely protection, addressing heightened biosecurity risk and working with regional authorities to clarify arrangements in advance, so that there are no delays to timely management.

Where the implementation approach under terms of such an agreement varies from this policy, the terms of that agreement prevail. Note that in establishing such agreements KVH will endeavor to achieve consistency with this policy, and any substantial variation in relation to this policy will require KVH Chief Executive approval.

KVH will work with partners (e.g., kiwifruit industry organisations, research organisations, other horticulture, nursery, and garden industry partners, Department of Conservation, and regional authorities) to encourage reporting of wild kiwifruit populations.

The steps to be taken, and associated timing, once wild kiwifruit plants have been identified are set out in Table 1 on the following page.

Table 1: Steps and indicative timeframe once a potential wild kiwifruit site is identified.

Step	Indicative timeframe
A. KVH notifies the relevant KVH regional coordinator or regional authority* with details such as location and size of the infestation.	Within 48 hours
B. Regional coordinator or regional authority* seeks landowner/occupier agreement to assess the site, arranges access etc.	By end of week 1
C. Regional coordinator or regional authority* assess the site and level of risk, and provide recommendation to KVH and to the regional authority* equivalent. Where access is denied, an Authorised Person is to accompany.	By end of week 2
<p>D. KVH and regional authority* to discuss and agree level of risk and priority, and add to work plan, or joint work programme accordingly.</p> <p><i>Note: This may include going back to the landowner to seek voluntary control (in particular for small infestations), or to seek a landowner contribution to control costs.</i></p>	<p>By end of week 3</p> <p>(timeframes for subsequent control will vary depending on current work programme and contractor availability).</p>

*Where applicable refers to where KVH and a regional authority have established an agreement (e.g., MOU) to collaborate where their interests in wild kiwifruit control align.

Compliance and cost-recovery for wild kiwifruit

KVH led compliance will be limited to use of Powers to achieve control of wild kiwifruit where there is heightened biosecurity risk. Regional authority led compliance will be limited to the use of Powers to achieve control of wild kiwifruit where there is heightened risk to biodiversity values.

Where KVH and a regional authority agree (e.g., within a MOU) that compliance and cost-recovery should be in accordance with the RPMP and led by the regional authority, the compliance and cost-recovery arrangements under the RPMP will apply.