

# BMSB

# RISK UPDATE



## APRIL 2024

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**The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)** is considered one of the greatest biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry, and many other horticultural industries. Its entry and establishment in New Zealand would result in significant production and lifestyle impacts.

BMSB is native to parts of Asia but has been invading North America and Europe over recent years. It has also been detected in Chile.

**Since the start of the high-risk period 1 September 2023** there have been 108 live BMSB detected. Most detections are associated with personal effects, sea cargo, and vehicle transport ships. In the latest reporting period (16 March to 17 April) there were 6 live confirmed BMSB detected, compared to four in the same period the previous season.



## REDUCING RISK

Throughout the high-risk season, Biosecurity New Zealand continues to closely monitor BMSB population levels and distribution across the world, as well as interception data. Requirements and import standards will be adapted as necessary to manage any change in risk.

Offshore audits of BMSB treatment providers continue, confirming systems are operating and performing to New Zealand's strict requirements.

## PREPAREDNESS

The annual national surveillance programme includes 160 traps at 80 sites (two traps at each site) to provide early warning of incursions. An additional 12 traps at six sites in the Bay of Plenty are funded by KVH.

The lure traps monitor for BMSB throughout the country, on or near specific hosts at high-risk sites (based on previous detections over the past five years, and volumes of high-risk consignments from BMSB countries) and are inspected around every 10 days from mid-November.

There are also 10 new aerodynamic traps being trialled this season.

# PREPAREDNESS CONT.....

These 10 new aerodynamic traps are low hanging tunnel traps self-orientate to the wind and distribute a more concentrated and robust pheromone.

After a successful trial last year, KVH worked this high-risk season with kiwifruit post-harvest organisations on our own industry surveillance network. In January two traps each were installed at 16 major kiwifruit packing facilities across Mount Maunganui and Te Puke, and were checked fortnightly for 12 weeks with no detections.

An infographic from KVH and Zespri encourages growers to think about what long-term management of BMSB might look like on-orchard; factors to consider into future planning; and the times of the year each is most appropriate. View the infographic online at [kvh.org.nz](http://kvh.org.nz) (sample below).

**Consider a future where BMSB has arrived in New Zealand. All response efforts have failed to eradicate the bug. What might long-term management look like? These are some things to factor into your future planning.**

**TIME YOUR INTERVENTIONS: TRAPPING AND MONITORING**

- Monitor regularly with traps to know when and where control is needed
- Start with orchard boundaries (where BMSB invade first)

**BIOLOGICAL CONTROL**

- The release of the parasitoid Samural Wasp (*Trissoulcus japonicus*) may be the most promising landscape level control to reduce BMSB populations
- Its release during the summer months (when BMSB lay their eggs) would be a world first and led in a response by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

**KEEP IT OUT: EXCLUSION NETTING**

- Netting (2-4mm mesh) significantly reduces pest pressure on-orchard as a first line of defense
- BMSB enters crops early, fully enclose orchards pre-pollination

**CHEMICAL CONTROL**

- Alongside other tools, chemical control can manage high BMSB populations at specific times of the year — growers must adhere to Zespri Crop Protection Standards (CPS)
- Due to residue implications, chemical control alone will not deliver year-round effective control of BMSB

**TRAP AND KILL**

- Reduce BMSB populations by trapping them as they seek out overwintering spots
- Overwintering traps work best in shelterbelts, gullies or near buildings

**"BMSB damage with no management can result in fruit loss of up to 90%! Active management in some orchards offshore suggest that this could be reduced to 5-10% fruit loss (up to 30% on the worst affected blocks)"**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON BMSB AND HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ORCHARD, VISIT: [WWW.KVH.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.KVH.ORG.NZ)

Note: Insect images not to scale.

REPORT THE UNUSUAL

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CATCH IT



SNAP IT



REPORT IT