

BMSB

RISK UPDATE



APRIL 2026

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 and has now established in North America and many parts of Europe. It has also been detected in Chile.

The high-risk season for BMSB in New Zealand runs annually from September through to the end of April. There were no live BMSB detections during the latest data reporting period (1 - 31 March 2026). Since the start of the season in September 2025 there have been a total of 62 live detections.

There have been 44 Yellow Spotted Stink Bug (YSSB) detections this 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 are adapted as necessary to manage any change in risk.

All border and post border detections are followed up by Biosecurity New Zealand to manage any potential risk, confirm no further bugs are present; and identify likely entry pathways where possible (i.e. recent travel or imported goods).

PREPAREDNESS

The annual national surveillance programme includes 300 traps to provide early warning of incursions, 24 of which are in the Bay of Plenty.

The lure traps monitor for BMSB throughout the country, on or near specific host trees at high-risk sites (based on previous detections and volumes of high-risk consignments from BMSB countries) and also include vegetation searches. The traps are inspected fortnightly.

PREPAREDNESS CONT.....

In addition to the national surveillance programme, KVH continues to provide additional trapping efforts to provide further protection to growers. This is in the form of funding additional traps at 20 high-risk areas and managing our industry lead trapping programme at kiwifruit nurseries, orchards and post-harvest facilities. This season KVH trialled a new trap type from Australia called a “black panel trap”, which will help inform future surveillance tools for the industry.

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 (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 Samurui 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

Note: Insect images not to scale.

REPORT THE UNUSUAL

KVH 0800 665 825

BIOSECURITY NEW ZEALAND 0800 80 99 66



CATCH IT



SNAP IT



REPORT IT