



KVH INFORMATION SHEET

BMSB risk update October 2022

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 2022

- There have been two BMSB finds, compared to six for the same period last season.
- Both finds were at the border, by Quarantine Officers at Auckland Airport.
- One of the finds was at a search bench where passengers from multiple flights from the USA were being processed; and the other was on an aircraft which had just arrived from South Korea. Neither of the finds were able to be associated to a specific passenger or belongings.
- There were nine suspect post-border notifications to the Biosecurity New Zealand investigation team, two of which have been identified as BMSB based on photos but not yet confirmed/received for formal identification.
- These two bugs were found alive in an Auckland home after travellers returned from Italy. The travellers did the all the right things – they took photos and made a report to the 0800 hotline and agreed to send in the now dead bugs for confirmation. They are also following specific further instructions and remaining vigilant to ensure there are no further bugs found/spread.

It is important to remain vigilant and keep watch. The earlier we find an unwanted bug, the greater the chance of successful eradication

What is being done to reduce the risk?

- Biosecurity New Zealand continues to closely monitor BMSB population levels and distribution in Europe and across the world, as well as interception data, and will adapt requirements and import standards as necessary to manage any change in risk.
- New Zealand officials are working closely with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to agree the offshore treatment supplier approval and audit programme for this season. Providers



will be audited on-site by officials from both countries now that travel is opening up again post Covid-19.

- There are no changes to the import standard for vehicles, machinery and parts, which are a common hiding place for BMSB. Goods of this nature from identified high-risk countries must undergo offshore management before arrival in New Zealand. The management measures currently apply to 38 countries. Biosecurity New Zealand will continue to monitor the international BMSB situation and will add to the list of countries if required.

Read and share the BMSB videos and fact sheets on the [KVH website](#). Talk about it with your friends and family and ensure they are aware of this unwanted threat.

Industry preparedness

- The national surveillance programme includes 160 traps at 80 sites (two traps at each site) to provide early warning of incursions.
- 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, starting early November. An additional 10 traps at five sites in the Bay of Plenty are funded by KVH.
- 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 [here](#) (sample below).

Zespri **KIWIFRUIT**

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.

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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 Samurai 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

“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)”

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON BMSB AND HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ORCHARD, VISIT: WWW.KVH.ORG.NZ

Note: insect images not to scale.