

MARCH 2022

KVH Snapshot

NEWS YOU CAN USE



The Pathway Plan
is approved
from 1 April

Prepared by
KIWIFRUIT VINE HEALTH
WWW.KVH.ORG.NZ

KO TĀTOU
THIS IS US BIOSECURITY 2025

Pathway Management Plan in place from 1 April



KVH is delighted to confirm the new Pathway Management Plan for the kiwifruit industry has successfully been approved by the Government for implementation from 1 April 2022.

This new Plan will better manage biosecurity risk for all the kiwifruit industry and is an achievement that reflects the efforts of all who have contributed since we first announced the proposal in November 2019.

[Read more here.](#)

Top tips for harvest hygiene



Harvest season presents a high-risk period for spreading Psa or other biosecurity risks between blocks, orchards, and regions because of the numbers of vehicles, machinery and people movements involved. Growers are responsible for protecting their orchards, and others, by ensuring the movement risk of harvest equipment, people, and bins onto and around their orchard is minimised.

[Read more here.](#)

Unwanted pest detection in Tauranga



Biosecurity New Zealand is working with primary sector and Te Tiriti partners after fall armyworm eggs were found in Tauranga recently.

Kiwifruit is not known to be a host of this pest and therefore KVH, on behalf of the kiwifruit industry, will be an observer to activities in response to this detection, rather than a GIA partner who shares decision-making and costs.

[Read more here.](#)

The KVH Snapshot provides you with brief biosecurity messages that you can reproduce and share. Contact lisa.gibbison@kvh.org.nz for more information related to the topics listed, or to remove/add addresses to the Snapshot distribution list.

Unusual symptoms in autumn



Growers are asked to look out for and report unusual symptoms at this time of the year when vines are likely to be under stress and susceptible to disease. As we head into the autumn months, monitor blocks for stressed or wilted vines and consider possible underlying causes such as water management issues, girdling damage or Psa infection.

[Read more here](#)

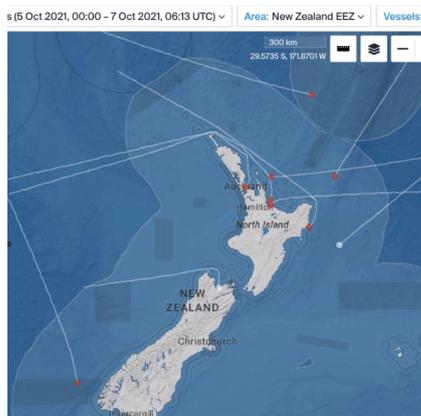
Another way to report pests and diseases



There's a new way to report suspected exotic pests and diseases online. Biosecurity New Zealand has released a new tool that provides an alternative to the existing 0800 phone hotline and means you can report the unusual in the way that suits you best. From the Biosecurity New Zealand website, you're guided through the reporting process and can submit photos, location of finds and other information.

[Read more here.](#)

Tracking pests from space



Tracking pests from space is now possible and it won big at the Biosecurity Awards last week.

Vessels arriving from international waters can bring with them exotic pests, disease agents and unwanted organisms. Xerra Earth Observation Institute's Starboard tool is a maritime intelligence project which is able to detect hitchhiker pests.

[Read more here](#)

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Psa risk prediction easier than ever

We've added a great new tool into the Weather & Disease Portal, enabling you to do a comparison of monthly Psa infection risk, between any season and any weather station.

Monthly Psa infection risk is simply the R-index, or infection risk, calculated for each day of that month, added together. A month with a higher monthly total will have more favourable conditions for infection and therefore greater disease risk pressure than a month with a lower total.

[Read more here.](#)

Spray advice with harvest underway

Growers with early harvest blocks should apply copper as soon as fruit has been picked to protect fruit stalks and soft tissue within the canopy from Psa infection.

If there is no risk of drift to unharvested blocks Actigard can also be added to the tank-mix, to provide additional control though activation of the vine's natural defence system. If there is any risk of drift, then plan to follow up with an Actigard spray when neighbouring blocks have been harvested.

[Read more here.](#)

Supply and distribution of budwood

The introduction of the new Pathway Management Plan in April helps the kiwifruit industry to prevent the spread of pests and diseases before we know they are here.

Budwood is one pathway of spread, and it is important for growers to understand what the requirements are under the Pathway Plan.

[Read more here.](#)

No new fruit flies found

We're still in the high-risk season for unwanted fruit flies and the latest risk update for this pest is now available on the KVH website. During the latest reporting period (the February calendar month) there were fortunately no detections of live fruit flies or larvae.

[Read more here.](#)

What not to do as civilisation collapses

A biosecurity faux pas has put the brakes on imports of a popular card game from the United States.

The manufacturers of the Climate Catastrophe Pack decided to include a bag of seeds as part of their promotion. Unfortunately the seeds don't meet New Zealand's biosecurity requirements, so need to be destroyed if they come into the country.

[Read more here.](#)

Waiting for picking? Zap those weeds!

Autumn is a good time to identify and remove harmful weeds remaining in orchard shelter belts, or any area adjacent to the orchard.

The flowerheads of the invasive South American pampas grass have just emerged (not to be confused with the native toetoe which flowered in October). Within another month or two, hundreds of fluffy seeds on each pampas flowerhead will be blown by the wind, ready to cling to Hayward fruit especially.

[Read more here.](#)

Stink bugs probing the border

Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs (BMSB) are continuing to probe our border defences. Latest data shows that so far this season (1 September to 30 April) there have been 61 live BMSB found, mostly on vessels, imported equipment/packages and mostly from the USA, China, and Italy.

[Read more here.](#)

Flying larvae? It's a thing

Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) larvae can be wind dispersed. The larvae climb to the end of a branch or shoot and drop down on a silk strand. They dangle and use the long hairs on their bodies that make them buoyant and help them 'fly' for up to 50m in the wind.

AGM is a serious pest. The most likely path for it to arrive is on vessels and vehicles as egg masses.

[Read more here.](#)

Farewell John

After a career in biosecurity including the past nine years at KVH, John Mather has hung up his boots for the wonderful world of retirement and we wish him all the best.

Last Friday was John's final day in the office as our Operations & Compliance Officer. He joined the team in May 2013 as National Pest Management Plan (NPMP) Analyst & Compliance Officer and over the years he had a key role in implementing the plan, including all aspects of compliance.

[Read more here.](#)

Introducing Andrew

With the retirement of John Mather, we welcome a new member to the KVH team – Andrew McConnell.

Andrew joins us as National Operations & Compliance Officer, and brings with him a wealth of experience in biosecurity, pest management, and risk management. He has worked in roles across the private sector, central, and local government, most recently as Senior Biosecurity Officer at Waikato Regional Council, where he ran large pest animal control and eradication projects.

[Read more here.](#)

Contractors: what you need to know

The introduction of the new Pathway Plan helps the kiwifruit industry to prevent the spread of pests and diseases before we know they are here. This will give us the best possible chance of eradication and will minimise impacts to our industry.

It is important for growers, and contractors to understand what their requirements are under the Pathway Plan from 1 April 2022.

[Read more here.](#)

Order nursery plants in advance

It is important to nurseries that growers order their plants well in advance. Without a reliable estimate of anticipated demand for the next season nurseries take a conservative approach to avoid getting left with unsold stock. Growers should order plants as far in advance as possible – preferably a year – to avoid any shortage in supply.

[Read more here.](#)

Introducing Nicole



We recently welcomed to the team our new Administrative Coordinator, Nicole Brown.

Nicole provides support to all the KVH team and is the first point of contact for all enquiries to the office. Before joining us, she worked in the grocery industry, most recently as an Assistant Manager and is particularly looking forward to further developing her leadership skills through her work at KVH championing biosecurity within both the kiwifruit industry and wider primary-producing sector.

25 years for Detector Dog programme



Because who doesn't love a cute dog story New Zealand's Detector Dog programme has been running for 25 years and recently welcomed the latest litter – P litter.

Before starting training, the tiny new recruits will be fostered out to families for the first 14 months of their lives. Some of the pups may not make the grade – it takes some special sniffing skills to become a biosecurity detector dog.

Tropical army worm about



KVH has received reports of caterpillars causing significant damage in young kiwifruit development blocks.

The caterpillars were quickly identified as tropical army worm (TAW), which at this time of year are known to move en masse through pasture and orchards, causing considerable damage in a very short time - nurseries can also be plagued by these hungry visitors. The good news is that they are easily managed once identified.

[Read more here.](#)