

KVH Dashboard




Industry risk at a glance - November 2023


Providing the kiwifruit industry with a summary of biosecurity threats and risk mitigation activities

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Seasonal risk of entry for our Most Unwanted:

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- The 2023/24 high-risk season (September-April) for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) has begun. Last season saw a decrease in detections, with 44 live finds reported, compared to 61 for the season prior. We have had 29 live finds so far this season, most of which have been associated with incoming passengers.
 - The high-risk season for fruit flies for 2023/24 is also underway (September-May). There have not been any interceptions so far.


Changes in global biosecurity risk:

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- KVH and Zespri have recently completed a project that highlighted that there are a few *Ceratocystis* isolates from hosts outside of kiwifruit that were pathogenic to kiwifruit. KVH informed the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) of this information to ensure that the entry risk pathways into New Zealand are sufficiently managed. KVH is confident that the nursery stock pathway remains well managed as import requirements for this pathway remain robust.
 - MPI has undertaken a number of risk assessments on organisms that were identified through translating Chinese scientific literature. While most of these are unlikely to change the risk profile to New Zealand, several viruses have been added to the Import Health Standard for *Actinidia* plants to ensure the entry pathway for these organisms remains well managed.
 - California is reporting increasing pressure from fruit flies this season. Normally, in an average year, officials would detect about 75 fruit flies on average, however so far this year they've detected 600 in neighbourhoods throughout the state. California is currently managing several fruit fly incursions including Oriental Fruit Fly, Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Tau Fly and Queensland Fruit Fly, with the latter being the first report of this species in the USA.

Ready to respond:

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- A survey of *Phytophthora* species in New Zealand kiwifruit orchards has been completed. KVH will use this baseline data to build a picture of what we have and what is new, which will help the industry during early stages of an incursion response.
 - A large research project looking into developing and refining our management tools for *Ceratocystis* is well into its 2nd year. The focus to date has been on understanding movement of the organism with tools, management through sanitisers and fungicides and exploring resistant rootstocks. These outputs are feed into our readiness plan and help increase our industry preparedness.
 - KVH, in partnership with Biosecurity New Zealand, has been working on building our internal industry capability through a series of exercises focused on understanding the response framework and the importance of traceability.

Managing our internal pathways:

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- KVH continues to investigate reports of unusual symptoms on kiwifruit vines. There have been 52 reports for 2023 to date, with some undergoing diagnostic testing and management practices being fed back to growers.
 - KVH continues work with Onside to make it easier for growers to keep records for plant material movements. Good traceability will improve KVH's ability to trace movements quickly and accurately should we be faced with an incursion.