

KVH Snapshot

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Could you spot it?

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

KO TĀTOU
THIS IS US BIOSECURITY 2025

Could you spot it?



The Spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an emerging biosecurity threat to kiwifruit and many other horticultural industries. The pest is hard to control and is a proven invader, capable of flying and hitchhiking on inanimate objects. Its egg masses are notoriously hard to spot. We saw the image on the left on Twitter from researchers in the USA who are trying to control spread across Eastern states – would you know it was a SLF egg mass?

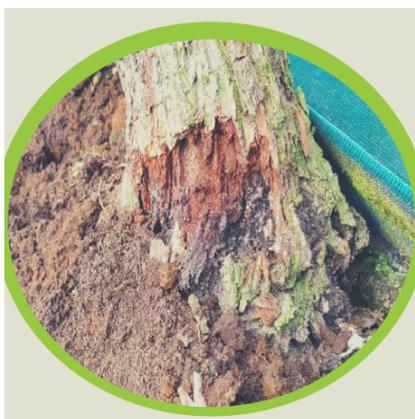
[Read more here.](#)

Upcoming Zespri grower roadshows



Alongside both our Zespri and NZKGI colleagues we'll be taking part in the upcoming virtual Zespri roadshows. At these first roadshows of the year we'll be providing an update on our activities; what we're seeing this high-risk season; and the Pathway Plan, as we head towards implementation from 1 April. The virtual meetings start Thursday 3 March and Zespri will provide details about how to join shortly.

Phytophthora survey



Plant & Food Research, KVH and Zespri have been working together on a survey of Phytophthora pathogens in kiwifruit orchards throughout New Zealand.

This two-year project has a focus on spring and autumn sampling as Phytophthora thrives in wet conditions after periods of rain. We'd love to hear from anyone interested in taking part.

[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.

Success with biological control of giant willow aphid

A biological control agent for giant willow aphid (GWA) has been identified and tested by Scion entomologists, approved and released in New Zealand.

GWA was first reported in New Zealand in 2013. The aphids feed on willow sap, damaging and occasionally killing the trees. The aphids can be a nuisance pest to kiwifruit growers as they also secrete copious amounts of honeydew, which attracts honeybees and wasps. Gisborne and Hawke's Bay growers in particular will be familiar with them as they have been prevalent in these spots in the past.

[Read more here.](#)

Fruit fly larvae in Aussie lychees

We're well into the high-risk season for fruit flies, with surveillance activities and trap monitoring underway.

Latest data shows there have been no detections of live exotic fruit flies since the season began (1 September), however in January there was a detection of Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) larvae and dead eggs on lychee from Australia at the New Zealand border.

[Read more here.](#)

Stink bugs successfully detected

It's also the high-risk season for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), which started last September. Latest data shows to date there have been 55 live BMSB found, mostly on vessels, imported equipment/packages and mostly from the USA, China, and Italy.

[Read more here.](#)

App makes reporting pests easy

Reporting is easier than ever with the Find-A-Pest app, free to download onto your phone from the Apple and Google app stores. You can easily submit photos, and any additional information. We've allowed for offline reporting, which means if you are out of Wi-Fi range or mobile reception, your report will be uploaded when you return to service.

[Read more here.](#)

Passenger biosecurity back in the spotlight



A new public awareness campaign will remind arriving passengers of their biosecurity responsibilities when New Zealand's borders reopen. Biosecurity New Zealand is targeting Kiwis returning from Australia in the first instance. They will be the first travellers allowed MIQ-free travel under current plans. The new campaign will be a reminder to travellers to stay vigilant in order to avoid paying a \$400 fine.

[Read more here.](#)

'Illegal fruit' movement in South Australia



South Australians have made great progress in fruit fly eradication efforts. However, we've also found some interesting new facts on 'illegal fruit' movement in the state. According to local news, more than 200 motorists were caught crossing from Victoria carrying more than 300 kilograms of illegal fruit and vegetables into the Riverland region over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

[Read more here.](#)

Protection after adverse weather



With the difficult weather conditions occurring in early February from Cyclone Dovi, it is important growers take every opportunity to review their spray programme and minimise the risk of Psa infection and spread. It is best practice to ensure protective sprays are in place before high-risk weather arrives, but if this is not achievable spray as soon as possible after infection events as vines are likely to be under stress and susceptible to infection if Psa is present.

[Read more here.](#)

Control moth plant



Growers are reminded that moth plant needs to be controlled now before seed pods form and mature. Moth plant is a poisonous (the sap can cause a painful dermatitis) South American vine, common in coastal areas of the upper North Island, and very invasive in orchard shelter belts or nearby weedy areas. It harbours passion vine hopper and slows shelter trimmers, so is very unwelcome in kiwifruit orchards.

[Read more here.](#)

Kiwifruit growers COVID-19 information



A reminder that NZKGI has a web page dedicated to providing up-to-date information to stakeholders across the kiwifruit industry on COVID-19. The page currently includes information and advice about on-orchard protocols, vaccinations, and pastoral support as well as links to employment, financial and health & safety advice.

[Read more here.](#)

Powerful noses of dogs used to detect outbreaks



The Italians are using the powerful noses of dogs to detect latest outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* before symptoms occur.

They started with dogs that were already expert detectors and then trained them over months using hundreds of samples of plant odours to have an idea as precise as possible about the smell of infected plants. The dogs will be used at nurseries and areas where plants are imported to identify infected plants before the appearance of recognisable symptoms.

[Read more here.](#)