

Seen something unusual? Report it

Reporting the unusual is a good thing. Pests and diseases can spread quickly between orchards and over large distances. The sooner we find out about something new, the more we can do to slow the spread and limit any impacts.



Often online?

If you prefer to be online, you can make a report to KVH using our easy website form at kvh.org.nz. It lets you upload photos too. If you think what you've found might be urgent or worrisome, stick to our phone line (0800 665 825). Biosecurity New Zealand also have an online form at mpi.govt.nz/pest



Prefer the phone?

If you'd rather talk to someone, make a report to us (0800 665 825) or Biosecurity New Zealand (0800 80 99 66). We'll still need photos so be sure to get good ones - we've included a guide overleaf.



Seen signs of disease?

Take some clear photos but try not to touch it. Be sure to record the exact location on the orchard. Contact the KVH team online or by phone.



Location, location, location

Be sure to make a note of exactly where on the orchard you see unusual symptoms or signs of disease, and remember to keep good traceability records. This means if any further action is needed we can quickly and efficiently track and trace movements between orchards and regions.



Spotted a pest?

Catch it if you can and take clear photos before you make a report.

We've included a handy guide to good photos overleaf.

Whether you find it easiest to use an app, go online, or pick up the phone, what's important is that you make a report as soon as you spot anything unusual and of concern. The kiwifruit industry's Pathway Management Plan includes an obligation to report instances that may be associated with elevated risk of kiwifruit pathways such as the presence of pests or pathogens, unusual symptoms, or contaminants (e.g., soil or kiwifruit plant material). This enables KVH to investigate and take early action to manage risk.



Taking a good photo is important

Help our experts help you. When reporting, clear and well-framed photos make all the difference to accurate identification and faster response.



When taking photos of plant diseases

- Take closeup photos of the symptoms on leaves, stems or trunks.
- Photograph the whole vine or plant to show context.
- Check for any fungal fruiting bodies and take a photo of any mushrooms or mycelium that are present on the wood.
- Take photos of the roots if you think the cause could be plant diseases like phytophthora or nematodes.
- Use a plain contrasting background like a piece of paper or your hand.



When taking photos of insects

- Catch and contain the insect if you're able, then put it in the freezer for an hour - some insects can move incredibly fast and cooling them will make them sluggish.
- Use a simple contrasting background but try not to use a bright white as it can affect the camera exposure.
- Include a scale this helps to show size - a ruler, pen, car key, or anything handy that provides a size guide.
- The insect should fill as much of the photo as possible to show identifying details.
- Make sure the photos are in focus - use the camera macro lens, which smart phones will often have built in.
- Photos of all life stages of an insect can be helpful, including egg rafts or masses, juveniles, and adults.



General tips

- Make sure the photo is in focus as blurry photos will make it hard to assess.
- Take multiple photos and send in the clearest ones.
- Have good lighting.
- Watch a short video: [Guide to Photographing Biosecurity Suspects](#).