

KVH Information Sheet

Kiwifruit Sea Containers



Background

There is an increasing amount of kiwifruit loaded directly into containers at cool stores, before the containers are trucked to the wharf and shipped to receiving countries.

Unwanted organisms which are currently not present in New Zealand may cross our borders lodged in cavities in a container or in soil or debris.

Readiness and response is about being fully prepared for significant pests and diseases if they arrive in NZ. This involves being able to detect them as soon as they arrive, and then being able to immediately activate the appropriate response activities to give us the best chances of eradication.

Although containers are thoroughly inspected and cleared at an MPI approved Transitional Facility before moving to a coolstore or packhouse, it is a phytosanitary requirement for post-harvest staff loading containers to check that the inside of the containers are free of any possible hitch-hiking pests before loading kiwifruit pallets for export.

Pests/contaminants may also be found in forklift pockets and in cavities around refrigeration units and other locations on the outside of containers.

Ensuring all containers are free of any contaminants will minimise the risk of introducing unwanted organisms.

Checking containers at post-harvest facilities

NB: ensure ALL health and safety requirements are met when moving about any shipping container or load-out area: high-vis vests must be worn; be aware of all machinery movements and comply with all site rules for machinery movements.

Where to look:

Before loading any pallets of kiwifruit undertake a visual inspection, checking the areas below, first ensuring it is safe to do so.

Do not climb onto the truck or onto the container.



Check the locking mechanism receiving slots



and any forklift pockets



Check door rubber gasket seals, flooring and internal panels.

If visible, check cavities around the refrigeration unit.

What to look for:

- any contamination - including insects and their egg masses, soil and plant material including fruit and seeds.
- Refer to KVH website for any pests/contaminants on [Kiwifruits Most Unwanted](#) list including the following:

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG




- Pierces kiwifruit resulting in fruit drop and rot. Fruit loss is typically 5-10% but up to 30% on worst blocks.
- Extremely difficult to eradicate – early detection is essential.
- Major nuisance pest overwintering inside houses in huge numbers.
- High likelihood of entry as a hitchhiker on shipping containers, cars, machinery and luggage.

Risk Months: Sep – Apr
I can enter NZ hiding on:




FRUIT FLIES

Queensland, Oriental, Mediterranean




- High likelihood of entry – have crossed our borders many times.
- Production impacts for a range of horticultural crops, but considered low for kiwifruit.
- Severe market access restrictions, particularly for Queensland Fruit Fly which is not present in most major kiwifruit markets.

Risk Months: Sep – June
I can enter NZ hiding on:




SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



- Attacks over 70 host species, including kiwifruit - eradication efforts overseas have been unsuccessful.
- Production impacts from extensive feeding resulting in oozing wounds, wilting, and sooty mould growth, which can be prolific.
- Hitchhiker pest that is hard to control – tends to fly out of orchards when sprayed and return later.

Risk Months: Sep – May
Look out for my eggs on:



What to do:

- For any live insects, photograph, catch or trap if possible and immediately shut container doors
- Contain any collected material into a zip-locked plastic bag or screw top pest container
- If you suspect you have collected one of KVH’s Most Unwanted pests (including the three above); immediately contact the MPI hotline on 0800 80 99 66 and Kiwifruit Vine Health on 0800 665 825.