



KVH INFORMATION SHEET

BMSB risk update – April 2021

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is considered one of the greatest biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry, and many other horticultural industries. Its entry and establishment in New Zealand would result in significant production and lifestyle impacts.

BMSB is native to parts of Asia but has been invading North America and Europe over recent years. It has also been detected in Chile.

Since the start of the high-risk period 1 September 2020:

- There have been 48 live BMSB finds, compared to 57 at the same point in the previous season.
- Most have been found on imported equipment, mostly from the USA and Italy.

During the four weeks from 18 March 2021 to 21 April 2021:

- There was one live BMSB found at a transitional facility in Auckland, in tiles from Italy. The site was investigated by Biosecurity New Zealand, goods fumigated, and then inspected by a BMSB detector dog.
- A traveller from Italy (in managed isolation) suspected they had found two live BMSB in their hotel room, but this was unable to be investigated any further as the bugs were destroyed and disposed of before a report was made. When Biosecurity New Zealand became aware, the travellers room and luggage was inspected, and the room was then thoroughly cleaned. A dead male BMSB was found during cleaning. Information was provided to the isolation facility to help staff and guests remain vigilant.
- There were 53 enquiries to the pest and disease hotline about BMSB, compared to 28 the previous season.

It is important to remain vigilant and keep watch. The earlier we find an unwanted bug, the greater the chance of successful eradication.

What is being done to reduce the risk?

- Biosecurity New Zealand is working closely with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to ensure alignment between both countries for treatment rates, management of treatment providers, and BMSB risk country lists.
- Detection data is being shared with Australia each month to enable joint identification of importers or vessels of interest.
- The Import Health Standard (IHS) for *Vehicles, Machinery and Parts* for this high-risk season now includes Portugal, Moldova, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, bringing the total number of countries being managed for increased BMSB risk to 37. Consignments that spend more than five days in a BMSB risk country are required to conform to BMSB management requirements.



- An offshore treatment provider in the Netherlands has been suspended due to failing a compliance assessment and two currently suspended providers (in the USA and Italy) are being assessed for reinstatement.
- As we head into the end of the BMSB season for 2020/21 some cargo delayed due to COVID-19 that shipped during the high-risk period may result in some additional bug finds, however due to the changing weather it isn't anticipated that there will be any additional risk.
- A project testing alternative treatments of overwintering BMSB in cargo will run over three years.
- Two of the live BMSB found this season are being used for the ongoing training of BMSB Detector Dogs.

Read and share the BMSB videos and fact sheets on the KVH website. Talk about it with your friends and family and ensure they are aware.

If you see this pest or anything else unusual catch it, take a photo and report it to MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825.

Industry preparedness

- The national surveillance programme includes 160 traps at 80 sites (two traps at each site) to provide early warning of incursions. The lure traps monitor for BMSB throughout the country, on or near specific hosts at high-risk sites (based on previous detections over the past five years, and volumes of high-risk consignments from BMSB countries) and are inspected around every 10 days. Traps in the Bay of Plenty are funded by the kiwifruit industry (KVH/Zespri).

There have been almost 2000 inspections of the traps so far this season, resulting in one BMSB find in January, which was a live female found near a trap in Airport Oaks, Auckland. The area has many transitional facilities nearby that import goods from countries where BMSB is common. Further inspections - including using a BMSB trained detector dog - found no other BMSB nearby, and all the transitional facilities were visited to talk about this unwanted pest and provide education and awareness materials.

- KVH has developed a guide for growers, detailing the likely options for on-orchard management of BMSB should it establish here.

The guide is split into several different sections and covers likely impacts to fruit and orchards, expected seasonal timing of impacts, control tools such as exclusion netting and areas of research underway. The guide is available on the KVH website [here](#).

- KVH is co-funding a nationwide education and awareness summer campaign with government and other groups across horticulture. This includes print, social media, on-demand TV advertising, and distribution of awareness material. The campaign targets specific audience such as gardeners and home DIYers, as well as increasing awareness more broadly with the public.



CATCH IT SNAP IT REPORT IT

REPORT THE UNUSUAL