Proposed new Pathway Management Plan
Fact sheet: Budwood

Long term growth and success of the kiwifruit industry requires biosecurity risks to be managed across the supply chain. KVH is proposing to introduce a Pathway Management Plan for the kiwifruit industry to prevent the spread of pests and diseases before we know they are here. This will give us the best possible chance of eradication and minimising the impact to our industry.

ur approach to risk management focuses on six improvement areas. If we can manage risk across these areas, we will be a long way towards protecting our investments from future biosecurity risk. This is one of a series of fact sheets available at www.kvh.org.nz, along with more detailed information and frequently asked questions that explain the implications of changes in these key improvement areas.

Why are we proposing changes to this pathway?

Growers should have a high degree of confidence in the biosecurity status of all plant material being moved into an orchard, and suppliers/distributors should be able to demonstrate how they are managing biosecurity risk.

The movement of plant material (budwood, rootstock, mature plants, shelter belt plants, and pollen) presents the greatest risk of moving new pests and diseases around our industry. The kiwifruit industry has already made significant progress in managing biosecurity risk across the rootstock pathway with the Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme (KPCS). However other plant material such as budwood is not managed to the same degree, creating inconsistency and vulnerability for growers. Risk organisms to the kiwifruit industry can inadvertently and rapidly be spread between orchards and growing regions through movement of budwood.

The proposed Pathway Plan aims to manage risk associated with the movement of budwood by focusing on monitoring and testing of supplying orchards. Rather than specify the target organisms and testing required, flexibility is proposed to enable the industry to adapt to changing risk profiles of organisms and advances in science which may influence monitoring or testing processes. However, a key driver for KVH is to ensure an appropriate balance between risk management and cost for industry in meeting these requirements.

To assist ease of compliance, existing certification schemes (such as the KPCS) will be expanded and used as a clear path for budwood suppliers to demonstrate management of biosecurity risk.

What does this mean for me? (Refer to distribution models in Appendix)

Budwood requirements only apply to the movement of budwood between orchards. Growers using budwood within an orchard are considered a non supplier.

Growers sourcing budwood: need to ensure they are sourcing from a KPCS certified supplier and maintain traceability records of where material was sourced from and planted/grafted. To assist with this process KVH will maintain a list of certified budwood suppliers online.

Budwood suppliers: growers supplying budwood to other orchards (separate parcels of land), must achieve KPCS certification. While the certification requirements are not onerous and are similar to existing protocols, they do require planning in advance to ensure monitoring can occur while vines have leaves and are in active growth. There is no fee for audit as growers will already be contributing through their pathway levy.

Distributors: distributors are those sourcing from third party orchards and moving to other recipients (Zespri, grafters and post-harvest may act as distributors). Distributors will need to document their risk management practices in a more robust manner for certification under the KPCS. This includes responsibility for ensuring monitoring and testing requirements across source orchards is occurring, as well as maintaining traceability from source to destination orchard. To create consistency with other pathways (such as rootstock where independent audits are conducted on a user pays basis) an audit fee of $200 is proposed.

How is this different to the current state?

There are already risk management requirements for budwood movements under the National Psa-V Pest Management Plan (NPMP), however these are specific to Psa. The proposed changes broaden the target organisms for monitoring (and testing if required) and provide a legal basis to manage risk of spreading these organisms where present. Currently we are not proposing testing for any additional target organisms, however if a high-risk organism emerges that could have significant potential impacts to the industry, additional monitoring or testing requirements for this specific organism may be introduced. If there is a significant cost associated with this, we will consult with the industry.

The intent is that these proposed requirements will apply to every person supplying and/or distributing budwood and cover all aspects of the budwood supply chain, from management of biosecurity risk on the budwood source orchard (or any other facility that produces budwood) and through to the supply of budwood to the end-user/grower.

The changes are not anticipated to add significant costs to growers sourcing or supplying budwood, however the outcome is a framework that significantly improves our biosecurity risk management on this pathway.

Requirement	Current State (NPMP)	Proposed (Pathway Plan)
Register with KVH	✓	✓
No requirements for use of budwood on same property	✓	✓
Target organisms for monitoring & testing	✓ Psa only	Based on risk & science
Collection from non-symptomatic vines only	✓ Psa based	✓
Tool hygiene requirements	✓	✓
No collection from cuttings on ground	✓	✓
Labelling and storage to prevent mixing	✓	✓
Traceability records	✓	✓
Certification under KPCS	X	✓
Annual testing cost • Psa non- detected blocks	 $85 per block	 $85 per block
Audit cost • Suppliers • Distributors	 $0 $0	 $0 $200

Case study: South Island canker

In 2018 KVH investigated reports of canker in Gold3 kiwifruit in the upper South Island. Growers reported that canker was becoming more severe in affected orchards and the symptoms were becoming more widespread across the region. A potential pathogen was isolated from the vines, *Neonectria microconidia*, which investigations revealed was not new to New Zealand and therefore a response would not be launched.

Neonectria microconidia is a close relative to the European canker pathogen in apples, and the most likely pathway for spread is on budwood material movements. The South Island is Psa-free and therefore provides many North Island growers with clean budwood, however this exercise highlighted that while the budwood may be free of Psa, it could be spreading other unwanted organisms. The regulatory tool that KVH uses to manage budwood is Psa specific and there are few risk management requirements for South Island to North Island movements, because of this single organism focus. This is the opportunity the proposed Pathway Plan presents; by giving KVH ability to manage risk associated with budwood based on the full range of known risk organisms, on any new or emerging risks KVH becomes aware of over time.

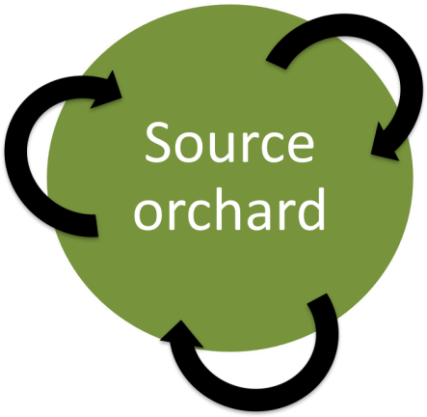
Fortunately, further investigation has determined that *Neonectria microconidia* is already present in North Island kiwifruit and has been since at least 2002 so we are not spreading a new organism, however the case study highlights how the focus on avoiding spread of a single organism can inadvertently spread another, and why broader biosecurity tools such as the Pathway Plan are required.

Take the opportunity to have your say

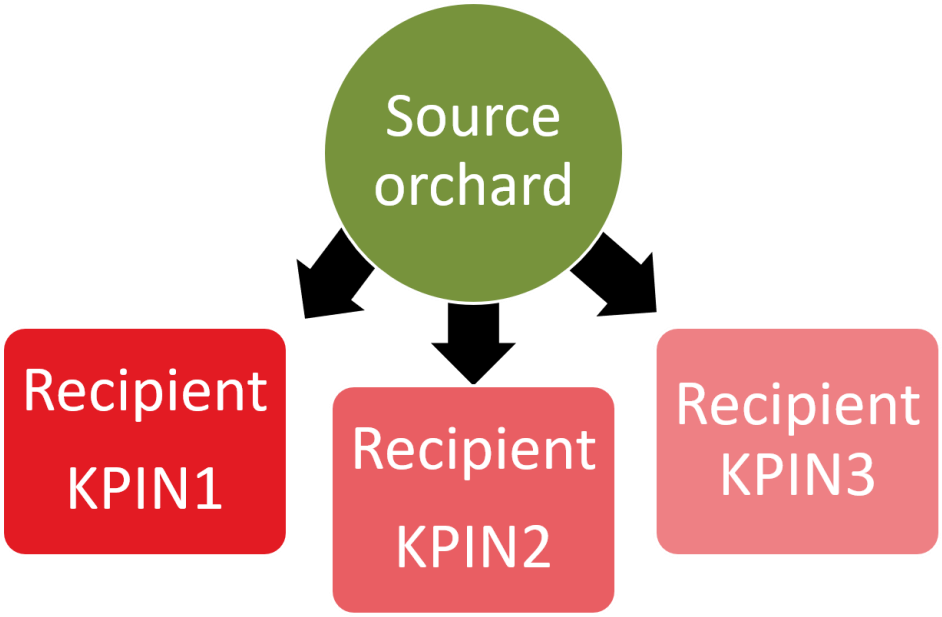
KVH is consulting with growers and other industry groups (nurseries and post-harvest for example) about the proposed new Plan. Based on feedback received, the Plan and implementation schedule will be finalised, with changes likely to come in to effect from 1 April 2022. Let us know your thoughts on the proposed Plan by Friday 30 October 2020. Speak to any of the team, send an email to info@kvh.org.nz or phone 0800 665 825.

Appendix: Distribution models

1. **Non supplier –** use budwood on own orchard only, no movement, no requirements



2. **Supplier –** grower provides budwood from their source orchard(s) directly to other recipients



3. **Distributor –** Entity (such as Zespri, post-harvest, grafters, and nurseries) sources from 3rd party orchards and moves to other recipients