

Proposed new Pathway Management Plan

Fact sheet: Plants and shelter plants

(Non KPCS nurseries providing shelter plants to kiwifruit orchards)



Long term growth and success of the kiwifruit industry requires biosecurity risks to be managed across the supply chain. Kiwifruit Vine Health Inc (KVH) is a leading biosecurity organisation dedicated to supporting the New Zealand kiwifruit industry. KVH was established in December 2010 to lead the industry response to the Psa incursion and since 2012 have been the lead organisation for biosecurity readiness and response for the kiwifruit industry. We are an industry established body, accountable to our industry members, working to manage biosecurity industry-wide.

In 2013 KVH developed a National Psa-V Pest Management Plan (NPMP) to ensure the entire industry worked together to overcome the impacts of Psa-V into the future. The NPMP has served us well and reduced the spread and impact of Psa to the industry. However, the NPMP and its associated measures are specific to Psa which may leave us vulnerable if we were to face another biosecurity incursion in the future. Shelter belt trees are one such example, whereas a non-host of Psa they are not currently subject to any industry biosecurity requirements but are a potential pathway to introduce other biosecurity threats into the orchard.

KVH is looking at a new regulation framework to better manage biosecurity risk to the kiwifruit industry. This is proposed to be at no additional levy cost to growers from the current status. Instead of focusing on a single pest, like Psa, the proposed Plan focuses on protection against the full range of biosecurity threats to our industry and provides for a consistent and pragmatic approach to managing pathway risks. KVH is proposing to introduce this 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.

Our 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?

A key principle of the Pathway Plan is that all inputs to an orchard, including all types of plant material, have a consistent and low level of biosecurity risk entering an orchard. All plant suppliers should be able to demonstrate how they are managing biosecurity risk. This will include kiwifruit rootstock as well as mature kiwifruit vines, and shelter belt plants.

The movement of plant material presents the greatest risk of moving new pests and diseases around our industry. The kiwifruit industry has already made tremendous progress in managing biosecurity risk across the rootstock pathway with over 60 nurseries currently certified under our Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme (KPCS), a biosecurity standard for kiwifruit nursery plants. The Pathway Plan will retain progress made in the KPCS and build on this to cover a wider range of pathways. While the KPCS is centred on kiwifruit plant material, it is recognised that due to proximity of shelter belt plantings to kiwifruit vines, kiwifruit industry risk organisms could be inadvertently spread onto an orchard through this activity.

What does this mean for me?

Nurseries producing shelter plants for kiwifruit orchards, but not producing kiwifruit plants, will need to meet the requirements of the Pathway Plan. Shelter plant nurseries will have similar responsibilities as kiwifruit nurseries, although mechanisms for meeting them will be slightly different (see the set of rules document on KVH website for wording and explanation of proposed rules).

Because non kiwifruit nurseries are unable to fall under the KPCS framework, these nurseries will need to demonstrate compliance with requirements of the Pathway Plan rules through other means, of which the simplest is achieving certification with a scheme equivalent to the KPCS, such as the Plant Producers Biosecurity Scheme (PPBS).

Case study:

Natural shelter belt plantings are widely used throughout the kiwifruit industry as they are necessary for establishing and then maintaining high levels of fruit production and quality in kiwifruit orchards by protecting the orchards from high winds.

A study in the UK in 2015 across 732 forest and landscape nurseries highlighted that 92% had *Phytophthora* species present. 81% of nursery plants were infected although over half appeared healthy.

When trees sourced from these nurseries that had been planted in the field were tested 66% were found to be infected with over 56 *Phytophthora* species found in total. From the study seven known *Phytophthora* species were found to be present for the first time in Europe.

Phytophthora literally means “plant destroyer” and its damaging impacts can be seen globally. There are many reports of different *Phytophthora* damaging kiwifruit vines in different regions globally, such as *P. dreschleri* which has caused significant impacts to the kiwifruit industry in Korea.

It is considered highly likely that under certain conditions (i.e. wet soils) kiwifruit would be susceptible to several *Phytophthora* species. Predicting which species will impact which cultivars, and under what conditions is difficult, if not impossible to predict.

New incursions to kiwifruit could come from the introduction of a new species or from a species already present in New Zealand that may not yet have been exposed to kiwifruit.

The close proximity of shelter belt plantings to kiwifruit plants in orchards means that new or replacement plants could potentially offer a pathway for new disease to enter the industry.

Managing the spread of such organisms is the guiding principal of the proposed pathway management plan. Should new pathogens arrive in New Zealand, being able to manage these high-risk pathways to ensure such pathogens are not readily dispersed on a major pathway, such as shelter plants, is essential to keeping our industry protected.



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. Speak to any of the team, send an email to info@kvh.org.nz or phone 0800 665 825.