

BMSB – risk update April 2017

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is considered one of the greatest pest threats to the kiwifruit and many other horticultural industries as its entry and establishment would result in significant production impacts.

Over the latest reporting period since our last update in March (see [here](#)) there were:

- 13 interceptions by MPI at the border, 11 from containerised sea cargo.
- Six of these were from Italy reflecting the increasing BMSB population numbers there.
- No live BMSB found at the border.
- One live BMSB intercepted post-border in a passenger's luggage at a private residence (currently under investigation and highly likely to be a single, isolated hitchhiker).

So far, over the 2016/17 high-risk period (Sept – May) there were:

- 147 interceptions at the border, mostly from Italy and the USA, and mainly on vehicles and machinery.
- 127 interceptions recorded on cargo.
- A small number of BMSB finds on air passengers (six), air cargo (three) and mail (one).
- 371 calls about BMSB made by the public to the MPI hotline, mostly because of raised awareness through magazine, newspaper and online advertising.
- There has been an increase in BMSB finds compared to the last high-risk period but this is consistent with seasonal expectations and reflects increased inspection efforts.

Although the high-risk entry period for BMSB runs until the end of April, there is always risk and interceptions both at the border and post border are a reminder that we must remain vigilant and keep watch - the earlier we find an unwanted bug, the greater the chance of successful eradication.

About BMSB

The BMSB can hitchhike on inanimate objects like cars and shipping containers. If it were to enter New Zealand it would have no problem establishing due to our highly suitable climate and abundance of host material.

The substantial risk and potential consequence of BMSB have made it a priority for biosecurity prevention and readiness activities for KVH and other industry groups, as well as the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) who regularly intercept the bugs at our borders across a range of pathways.



What is being done to reduce the risk

KVH has been working with Zespri, MPI and other horticultural sectors to improve understanding of the bug and ensure readiness plans are in place should it get here. Activities are in place to reduce the likelihood of entry and establishment, but also reduce impacts should it arrive.

Various workshops and desktop exercises have been run to simulate a response and work out what practical information will be provided to growers during an incursion. This will continue over the coming months as KVH

and Zespri concentrate on what advice and information will be provided to growers in the event of a possible incursion.

Industry groups are also developing best practice BMSB risk management expectations and guidelines to support importers and distributors of farm and orchard equipment and supplies from high-risk BMSB countries, such as tractors from Italy.

Information campaigns, including [videos](#) fronted by the Bugman Ruud Kleinpaste have run on websites and social media as well as specific videos targeted towards travellers.

There has also been further detector dog training, research on the effectiveness of lures, mandatory treatments of vehicles and machinery, and targeted verification inspections on sea containers.



MPI has also started visiting European exporters of high-risk cargo to talk to them about mitigating risk.

Where else is it found?

BMSB is native to Asia and commonly found throughout China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

BMSB has also been reported in 14 European countries (Italy, Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Bulgaria and parts of western Russia) and is possibly undetected or not reported in others.

Within the USA, BMSB is considered one of the most significant pests in recent history.

BMSB has recently been found in a small urban area of Santiago, Chile. All life stages have been discovered so an established population is assumed – MPI will travel to Chile shortly to learn about the initial stages of population establishment and assist officials based on New Zealand’s readiness programme. This is significant as it is the first known population to establish in the Southern Hemisphere, which increases the risk to New Zealand as there is greater seasonal alignment between our countries making it easier for the pest to establish on arrival.

What you can do

- Know what the BMSB looks like so you know what to look out for.
- Check luggage and mail. If you’re returning to New Zealand from overseas or have received mail from the countries where it is present, check your luggage or mail indoors so you can catch any bugs that may be hiding.
- Spread the word. Tell your friends and family, share the [videos](#) from the KVH and MPI websites, and put up free posters from KVH in your offices.

If you see this pest, or anything else unusual catch it, take a photo and report it to either MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 82

