



Biosecurity system engagement under the GIA



Joint decision-making and cost sharing through the GIA

GIA & THE WIDER RESPONSE

- GIA provides for joint decision making and cost sharing between government and industries, for readiness and response.
- KVH represents kiwifruit and kiwiberry sectors as part of GIA.
- A BMSB Operational Agreement is in place – this sets out, amongst other things, how decision making and costs are shared for both readiness and response between MPI, KVH and other industries affected by BMSB.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE HAVE A BMSB INCURSION? FIRST 72 HOUR PLAN

This documents activities immediately following confirmation of a BMSB find. Key elements include:



Key stakeholders are notified early

- MPI notify KVH and other GIA partners
- KVH notify industry stakeholders by email/phone calls



Deployment of resources

- KVH liaises with MPI & AQ to identify industry resources needed
- Resources deployed via KiwiNet (operations and specialist roles)



Response Governance forms

- GIA “Response Governance Board” forms (KVH is a member)
- Kiwifruit Industry Governance Forms (KVH Board for routine responses)



Daily updates

- MPI daily stakeholder calls & emails
- KVH updates to industry through routine channels (e.g., special bulletins, teleconference etc.)

KEY RESPONSE ELEMENTS FOR THE KIWIFRUIT INDUSTRY

Movement controls (MPI/ KVH)

MPI likely to implement a response zone of 2-3 km. Any movement controls are likely to be seasonal to reflect the biology of the pest, with plant material considered a risk good in summer, and inanimate objects in autumn and winter. Key activities for kiwifruit industry include;

- safe storage of objects such as harvest bins to prevent transporting the pest
- inspection of risk goods entering and leaving sites
- education campaigns to raise awareness.

Reducing post-harvest impacts

Key considerations for post-harvest in the event of an incursion are largely limited to the possibility of business disruption due to movement controls if there is a find adjacent to a facility. There is a possibility of loss of throughput for those facilities in a movement control zone or controlled area that must be considered.

The recommendation to industry to address the above issues and reduce impacts for post-harvest operators is to think about their risk and insurance coverage. There may also an opportunity to develop protocols to reduce our risk around movement controls and make those recommendations to MPI before an incursion.

Trade implications and agrichemicals (Zespri)

In the event of an incursion, MPI is required to notify trade partners. Any market access implications will likely be confined to mostly smaller Zespri markets where the species is not yet established. It is likely that Zespri’s normal phytosanitary inspection process will be sufficient to ensure the fruit is free of this pest.

An incursion would likely result in an intensive spray programme to attempt eradication, with all vegetation, shelter belts, buildings and structures in the immediate area sprayed with either Permethrin (270g ai/Ha), or Bifenthrin (224 ai/ Ha).

Use of agrichemicals at these rates will exceed MRLs and the fruit will be unable to be harvested. Extensive testing of surrounding orchards for potential spray drift would need to occur to ensure we have confidence in our ability to meet MRL’s. Sampling programme would need to be more intensive than current residue programme.

COMMUNICATIONS

Response communications led by MPI and KVH. Kiwifruit Industry Communications Group Protocol developed (KVH, Zespri, NZKGI).

Key messages for industry after confirmation of find

- BMSB has never settled in New Zealand but has spread to the United States and Europe from Asia. They are hard to kill and breed quickly. They could cause considerable damage to many horticultural crops and infest homes.
- The [people] who made the report to MPI/KVH have done exactly the right thing and we applaud them for making such a prompt notification. Early notifications are critical as they give us the best chance of successfully responding to protect New Zealand.

What you can do:

- Know what BMSB looks like and inspect your property. If you think you’ve seen one of the bugs catch it if possible, take a photo, and phone MPI immediately on 0800 80 99 66.
- It is vital that anyone cleaning or moving machinery and tools check for the bug.
- We all have a role to play as a biosecurity team of 4.7 million people. Biosecurity is everyone’s business.
- We have put more information about what to look for and what to do if you find this pest online at [website].

ADDRESSING KNOWLEDGE GAPS

BMSB Council and National Readiness Programme

- BMSB Council established to drive collective readiness work programme under the OA (e.g., biocontrol) - KVH is a member.
- A readiness strategy and work programme are being developed.

Kiwifruit/Kiwiberry industry readiness

- Industry-specific projects are implemented to improve readiness for an incursion.
- KVH leads this, in collaboration with Zespri, NZKGI and NZKBG.
- A ‘Biosecurity Steering Group’ drives relevant science projects with funding from KVH and Zespri.