



KVH INFORMATION SHEET

Most Unwanted update

BMSB – risk update October 2017

The substantial risk and potential consequence of BMSB has made it a priority for biosecurity prevention and readiness activities for KVH and other industry groups, as well as MPI who, over recent years, have regularly intercepted the bugs at our borders across a range of pathways.

We are now in the high-risk season for BMSB entering New Zealand from the Northern Hemisphere, which runs until May. This risk update provides an overview of actions to mitigate the risk of BMSB since the last report was published in early September 2017.

Since the last KVH Risk Report there have been six interceptions of BMSB at the border. They were all single, dead adults found on a range of pathways: sea container (4), car shipment (1), and air passenger (1).



What is being done to reduce the risk?

- Proactive initiatives are underway by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to manage the risk of BMSB crossing our borders during this year's high-risk period. Currently, 100% of full containers of cargo from Italy and Hungary are targeted for inspection.
- 75% of full containers of cargo originating from ports in the USA identified as high-risk for BMSB are also being targeted for inspection.
- Additional requirements for the import of vehicles, machinery and other equipment including tyres, from Italy have been introduced.
- An industry-wide group (including a representative from KVH) has just returned from a visit to Chile to learn about the initial stages of BMSB detection there and to assist officials based on New Zealand's readiness programme. The group also took part in tests of BMSB lures.
- KVH is a member of a steering group seeking Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pre-approval to release the Samurai Wasp should BMSB establish here. The wasp is our most promising control strategy, and a natural enemy of the BMSB that can provide ongoing population suppression.
- A KVH co-funded public communications campaign is underway, including advertising and news and social media stories. As at the end of September there had been over 5,000 visits to the stink bug page on the MPI website, and 59 calls to the 0800 pest and disease hotline. MetService ads have prompted the most

visits (1,477) to the MPI website with Facebook advertising the next (1,340) most successful.

- In late September BMSB collateral was distributed through PGG Wrightsons/Fruit Fed, Waimea Nurseries, and to over 160 garden retailers through NZPPI. KVH has also contacted backpackers that host seasonal workers to make sure they are aware of the risk posted by BMSB and visited local Tauranga backpackers.

BMSB spread

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

BMSB is native to parts of Asia, but has been invading North America, and more recently Europe. The bug continues to spread in Italy with new detections in regions north of Rome and Sicily. Italian authorities are also seeing an increase in BMSB numbers in Genova, Rome and Naples (where there is a port).

Over the past 12 months BMSB has established in Bulgaria and Hungary, and it has been detected in Santiago. This is significant as it is the first known population find 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.

The high-risk period for New Zealand runs until May 2018.

What you can do

Watch the BMSB videos on the KVH [website](#) to understand what this pest looks like and the risk it poses. Talk about it with your friends and family and ensure they are aware too.

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.

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 665 825.

