

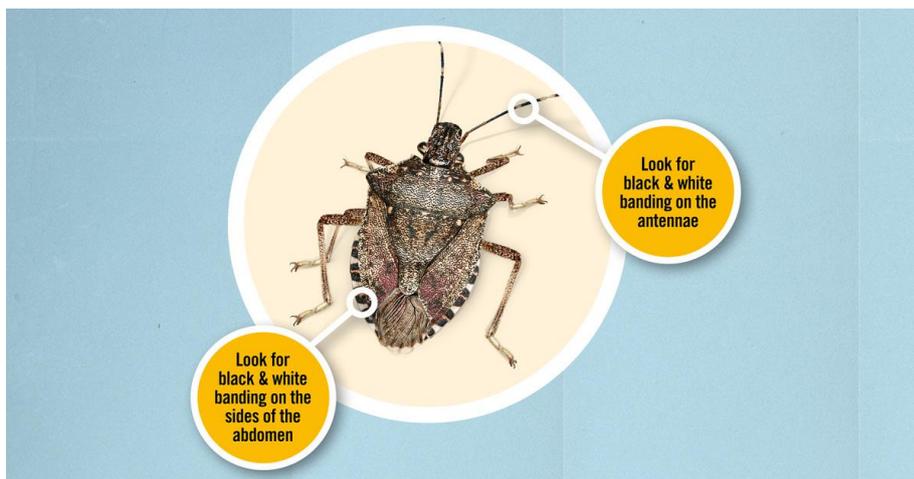
# KVH INFORMATION SHEET

## BMSB risk update – January 2018

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

BMSB is native to parts of Asia, but has been invading North America and Europe over recent years. The bug continues to spread within Italy and has also been detected in Santiago, Chile.

This is significant because 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 pests to establish on arrival).



### On the four weeks from 12 December 2017 to 10 January 2018:

- There have been 77 interception events at the border, comprising 445 BMSB.
- This is 79% up on the same period last year, and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) expect this is due to increasing populations of BMSB throughout Italy and other countries with established populations. Extra import requirements and the targeting of high-risk imports are also likely to have contributed to the increase in finds.
- Most of these interceptions originated in Italy (59). By comparison, there were 6 from the USA and 5 from Japan.
- The majority of these interceptions occurred in Auckland (53%). The Bay of Plenty was responsible for 3%.
- The 77 interceptions included nine aggregations – one involving live BMSB, one involving a mix of both live and dead bugs, and seven aggregations of all dead bugs.
- The live aggregation was 27 bugs found in containerised farm machinery from Italy by Waikato MPI staff.
- The aggregation that involved a mix of live and dead bugs was found on shipping cargo during MPI inspections. The ship had visited BMSB risk areas in the USA and Italy, as well as several other ports.

### Since the start of the summer high-risk period in September 2017:

- There have been 157 interception events overall, comprising 909 BMSB. Most of these interceptions have been of dead bugs, and all but one occurred at the border.
- There have been 14 interceptions of BMSB aggregations.
- Most of the interceptions have occurred in containerised cargo (83%). The remaining finds have been on passengers, aircraft, ships, and at Transitional Facilities.
- Most interceptions have been of dead BMSB (82%).

**Over the high-risk period all interceptions are a reminder that we must always remain vigilant and keep watch – the earlier we find an unwanted bug, the greater the chance of successful eradication.**

### What is being done to reduce the risk?

- Proactive initiatives underway by MPI to manage the risk of BMSB crossing our borders continue. Sea containers from Italy now have the same requirements as vehicles and machinery for fumigation or heat treatment, which must take place before shipping.
- Information about the risk of BMSB and how to reduce contamination is being provided to the importers and exporters of consignments where aggregations have been detected.
- An industry-wide group, including KVH, travelled to Chile late last year to learn about the initial stages of a BMSB detection in Chile and to assist officials based on New Zealand's readiness programme. The group took part in tests of BMSB lures and helped establish a delimiting survey by setting up sticky traps.
- The Chilean equivalent to MPI is sharing data from the traps. So far, there have been 143 positive detections either on the sticky traps themselves or within the vicinity.
- Representatives from MPI will be visiting Italy at the end of February to watch and assess the work done by fumigators responsible for treating New Zealand importers. This will provide New Zealand with extra confidence that strict import requirements are being met offshore.
- MPI and their Australian equivalent continue to meet and share useful information about management of BMSB, particularly around situation reports, pathway and treatment information, import measures and surveillance tools.



### What can you do?

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

If you see this pest, or anything else unusual catch it, take a photo and report it to MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825.

