



# KVH INFORMATION SHEET

## BMSB risk update – February 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 and has also been detected in Chile.

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

- There have been 215 interception events overall, comprising 1543 BMSB.
- This is twice as many finds as from the same period last year, which the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) expect 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 the interceptions have been of dead bugs, and all but two occurred at the border.
- There have been 24 interceptions of BMSB aggregations.



**The high-risk period for BMSB runs through to April 2018.**

**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.**

### During the four weeks from 11 January 2018 to 14 February 2018:

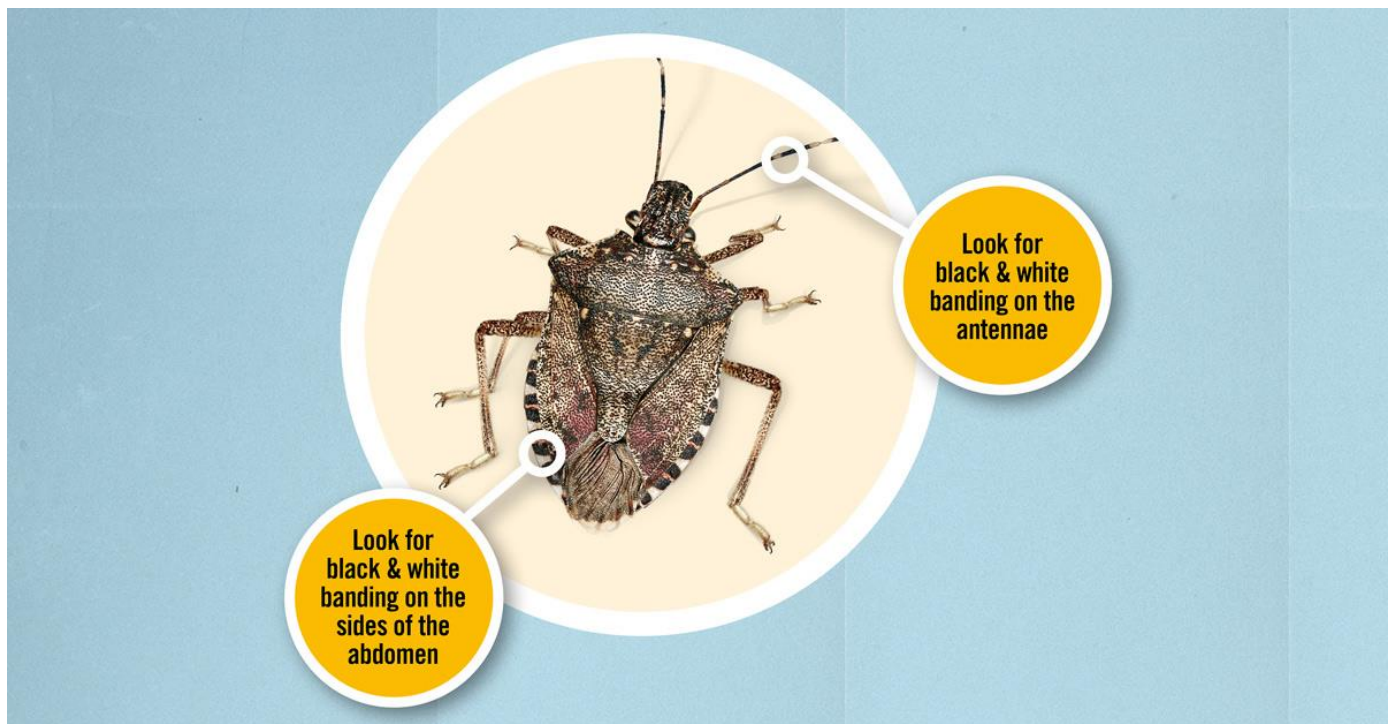
- There have been 38 interception events at the border, comprising 515 BMSB.
- The 38 interceptions included six aggregations – three involving a mix of live and dead bugs, and three aggregations of all dead bugs.
- Most of these interception events were on goods originating in Italy (18). By comparison, there were eight from the USA and six from Japan. However, total number of bugs was greatest from Japan (>300)
- Ships, vehicles, and equipment are the commodities most bugs (85%) have been found on or in.
- The majority of the interceptions occurred in Auckland (82%). There were no interceptions in The Bay of Plenty over this period.
- One dead, male BMSB was found in Canterbury in a used car from Japan.

Throughout February there have been several media reports regarding car ships from Japan containing significant numbers of stink bugs – BMSB and Yellow Spotted Stink Bug (YSSB). KVH has publicly congratulated the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for taking the right action in turning back these ships.

MPI has announced that from now on all used vehicles will have to be cleaned and inspected for BMSB at an MPI-approved facility in Japan before export. Most already do, but this change makes it compulsory. MPI has also used fogging of the ship with insecticide to flush out any insects out of confined spaces. BMSB is native to Japan and previous interceptions have consisted of individuals, not aggregations such as those we are now seeing. The reasons for the change are unknown and MPI is investigating to understand more.

## What we're doing to reduce the risk:

- Proactive initiatives are underway to raise awareness of the threat and impact of BMSB and YSSB crossing our borders. This has included meetings with importers and transporters of machinery and other high-risk goods to ensure they are fully aware of the biosecurity measures they must take.
- KVH is working with other industry groups on an application for the release of a biological control, the Samurai Wasp, which would help the fight for eradication/control in the event BMSB establishes here. The wasp is a natural enemy of BMSB and it's effective in suppressing populations by up to 80%.
- 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.
- KVH is re-visiting Transitional Facilities, car importers, and hostels/backpackers (who host tourists as well as seasonal workers) to remind them about the threat of stink bugs and the importance of being on the lookout.
- MPI and their Australian equivalent continue to meet and share useful information about management of BMSB. There have been several border detections of both dead and live bugs at two sites in Western Sydney which has led to Australia now requiring all goods arriving from Italy to be treated onshore or prior to export.
- MPI continue to share information with their Chilean counterparts who are undertaking delimiting trapping to determine the extent of BMSB establishment within urban Santiago. A total of 291 bugs have now been detected, but these remain confined to the city and there is no evidence of spread to horticultural regions.



## What can you do?

**Read and share the [BMSB and YSSB fact sheets on the KVH website](#). 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.**