



KVH INFORMATION SHEET

BMSB risk update – March 2018

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

BMSB is native to parts of Asia but has been invading North America and Europe over recent years. It has also been detected in Chile.

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

- There have been 249 interception events overall, comprising 1990 BMSB.
- Most of the interceptions have been of dead bugs, and all but four occurred at the border.
- There have been 32 interceptions of BMSB aggregations.
- 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.

During the four weeks from 15 February 2018 to 14 March 2018:

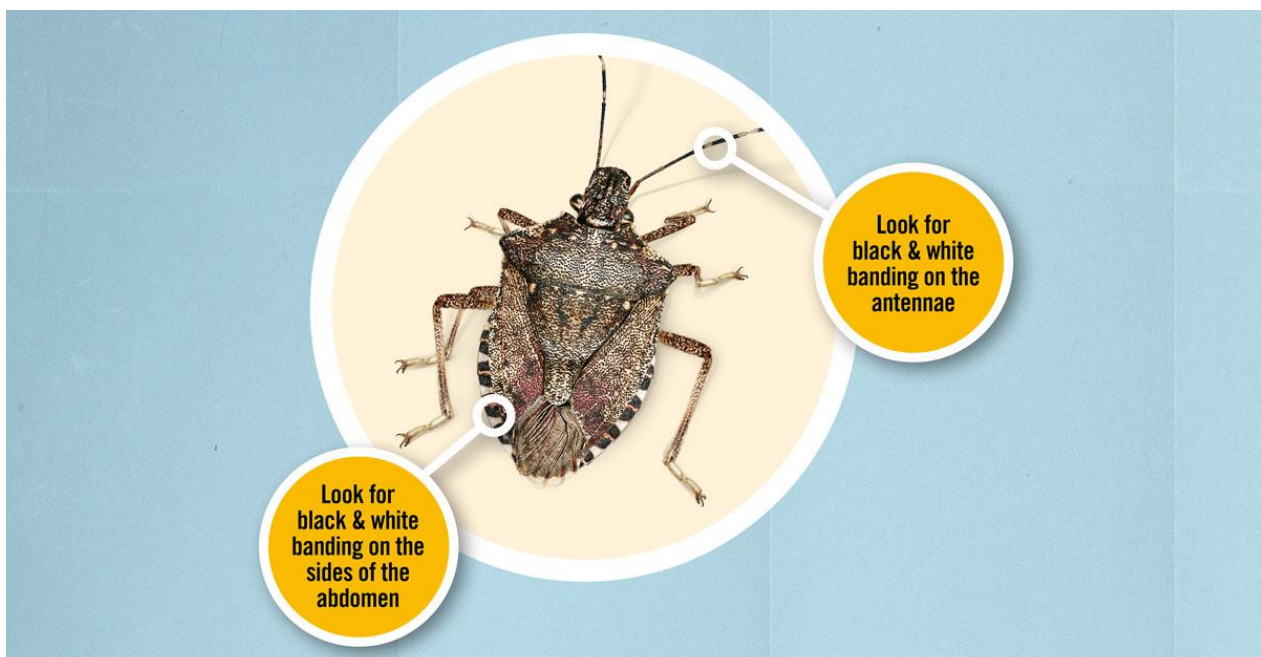
- There have been 27 interception events at the border, comprising 324 BMSB.
- Most of the bugs were on goods originating in Japan (228 BMSB). By comparison, there were 55 from Australia, 19 from Italy, 11 from Germany, and 6 from the USA.
- The majority of BMSB were found on ships and in containers.
- All except two of the interceptions were at the border. The first post-border find was in Nelson, where several live BMSB were found in a consignment of new machine equipment airfreighted from Germany. The second detection was in Auckland, where a single live bug was found in a home that household goods from the USA had been delivered to.

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



What we're doing to reduce the risk:

- KVH and other industry groups have applied 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%. There will be a public consultation stage as part of the approval process.
- KVH has visited Transitional Facilities and vehicle importers in the Bay of Plenty to remind them about the threat of stink bugs and the importance of being on the lookout.
- Awareness material – posters, flyers, and fridge magnets – has been sent to hostels and backpackers in kiwifruit growing regions so that tourists and seasonal orchard workers can be reminded of what to look out for and how to report anything unusual they may find.
- MPI has extended mandatory fumigation and enhanced inspections of ships and cargo (vehicles, equipment and tyres for example) from Italy and Japan. The period was due to finish at the end of April but will now continue into late May as an extra precautionary approach, and to ensure all ships leaving Japan in April are inspected upon arrival.
- MPI and their Australian equivalent continue to meet and share useful information about management of BMSB. Staff from both organisations recently visited Italy to meet with the President of the Italian Fumigation Association to discuss continued joint efforts to improve processes, communications, and guidelines that will reduce the risk of BMSB, including considering alignment of the treatment requirements of New Zealand and Australia.
- Staff at the Chilean equivalent of MPI are sharing information about the delimiting trapping they are doing to determine the extent of BMSB establishment within urban Santiago. A total of 485 bugs have been detected, but these remain confined to the wider Santiago area and there is no evidence of spread to horticultural regions.



What can you do?

Read and share the BMSB videos and [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.