



# KVH INFORMATION SHEET

## BMSB risk update – April 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 and lifestyle 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 283 interception events overall, comprising 2218 BMSB.
- Most of the interceptions have been of dead bugs, and all but four occurred at the border.
- There have been 37 interceptions of BMSB aggregations (10 or more bugs).
- Most of the bugs have come from Japan, Italy, and the USA on sea cargo.
- This is more than 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 14 March 2018 to 11 April 2018:

- There have been 34 interception events at the border, comprising 233 BMSB.
- Most of the bugs were on goods originating in Japan (161 BMSB). By comparison, there were 10 from the USA and five from Italy.
- The majority of BMSB were found on ships and in containers.
- All the interceptions were at the border, and all the bugs found were dead.



Adult  
Male



Adult  
Female

## What we've been doing to reduce the risk:

- KVH and other industry groups have applied to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) 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%.

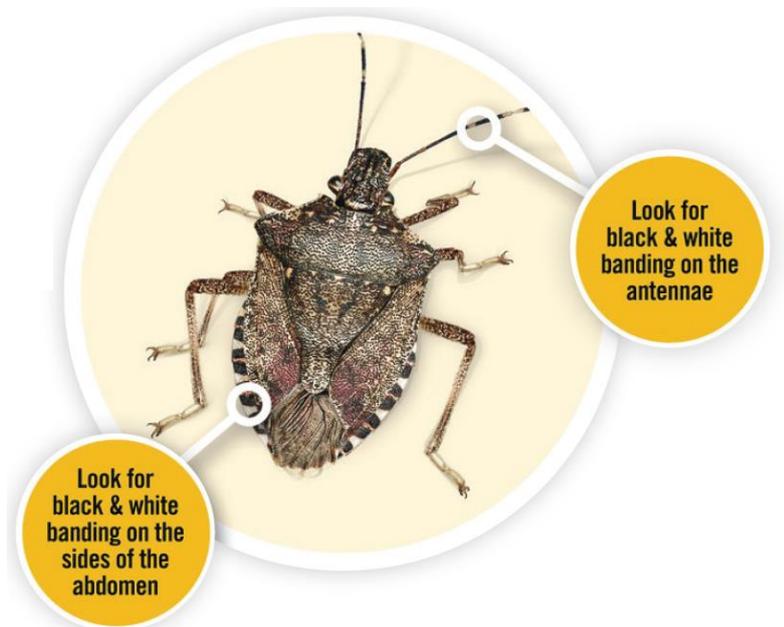
The public consultation stage is underway as part of the approval process. KVH is putting forward a submission on behalf of the kiwifruit industry and we encourage growers to also have a say. Information about the application and how to make a submission is on the [KVH website](#).

- 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.
- 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 530 bugs have been detected, but these remain confined to the wider Santiago area and there is no evidence of spread to horticultural regions.
- MPI presented the Chilean trapping data at a recent plant health surveillance workshop in Australia and discussed ideas about what BMSB surveillance might look like in New Zealand.
- New Zealand and Australian officials continue to collaborate on BMSB surveillance protocols and share data. The Australians recently went on a BMSB trip to Switzerland and have updated MPI officials on their learnings.
- KVH co-funded a nationwide BMSB education campaign with government and other groups across horticulture aimed at lifting public awareness around the damaging impacts of BMSB and increasing the likelihood of early detection through passive surveillance. The campaign is coming to an end as we head towards moving out of the highest risk period. Results already in show that there have been:
  - 931 calls to the biosecurity hotline by people who had seen one of the campaigns ads
  - 6.5 million views of online ads
  - 30,500 views of the BMSB page on the MPI website.

## 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.**



Look for black & white banding on the antennae

Look for black & white banding on the sides of the abdomen