KVH Snapshot – February 2018

Stink bugs sent packing

KVH has publicly backed and congratulated the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for taking the right action in turning back ships that have arrived at the Ports of Auckland carrying hundreds of unwanted stink bugs.

KVH is pleased with the ongoing diligence of MPI to detect the high-risk Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) and Yellow Spotted Stink Bug (YSSB) at the border and we fully support the serious steps they have been taking to manage the risk of them getting here.

Representatives for the vehicle importing industry are taking the issue seriously and should be credited for the way they are co-operating with government as part of a group set up to urgently address the problem. The Chief Executive of the Imported Motor Vehicle Industry Association has contacted KVH, 100% behind the position we have taken with this biosecurity risk, and like us wants to make sure a sustainable solution is put in place that addresses the problem offshore.

Read more here.

KVH is doing a lot to keep BMSB out

Working alongside the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and other horticulture industry groups, KVH has been working hard to raise awareness of the threat and impact of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) crossing our borders. This work 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.

We've planned to ensure that as an industry we're well prepared for BMSB, if it were to arrive and establish here. This includes running regular simulation exercises; hosting workshops with industry, MPI, and other horticultural sectors; and developing joint workplans for how we would manage an incursion and long-term response.

Read more here.

Biological control for the stink bug problem

KVH is working with other industry groups on an application to release a biological control that would help the fight for eradication in the event of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) establishing here.

One of the most promising control strategies currently being pursued, the Samurai Wasp is a natural enemy of the BMSB and it's thought to be effective in suppressing populations by up to 80%.

Read more here.

Import standards managing BMSB threat

KVH has put forward a submission to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on proposed amendments to the import standard for 'vehicles, machinery and equipment'.

Although there are multiple potential ways BMSB could enter New Zealand, interception data demonstrates that the 'vehicles, machinery and equipment' pathway is high-risk. This is especially the case from countries where BMSB is found in large numbers, undergoing population growth, or expansion across regions – for example in the USA, Italy, and several other countries across Europe.

Read more here.

Stopping the Yellow Spotted Stink Bug

The recent border interceptions of both the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) and Yellow Spotted Stink Bug (YSSB) are a timely and important reminder of how important it is we all know what these bugs look like and what to do if we find them.

The YSSB is like the BMSB in that it is a hitchhiker pest and is around 18-23mm long (about the size of a 10-cent coin) or larger, and they are bigger than shield bugs currently found in New Zealand. The body is blackish brown and covered entirely with many small yellow spots.

Read more here.

Keep in touch

KVH offers a range of ways for you to keep up to date with all things related to kiwifruit biosecurity and vine health.

Every month the brings you a summary of recent news and activities in the brand-new Snapshot podcast. It's free and available now on iTunes and Soundcloud.

Read more here.

We publish articles in our online Newsroom regularly. You can also sign up to our e-news Bulletin for fortnightly biosecurity bursts. We distribute Special Bulletins to our e-news database when significant biosecurity events take place.

Read more here.

From the frontline

Over the summer the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) handled a substantial volume of passengers at our airports. Numbers at Auckland have been up 5% on last year, and more than 18,000 travellers were processed on the airports busiest day. There were also some weird and wonderful interceptions found at the border over that time.

Read more here.

Unusual symptoms made simple

When reports of unusual symptoms are made to KVH (by growers, contractors, packhouse staff and others visiting orchards) they are assessed and looked into to be sure that any biosecurity risk is identified and well managed, and that the growers involved are well supported if any further action needs to be taken.

KVH prepares full reports on every investigation which can now be read on our website in a new simple, easy to read table.

Read more here.

Moth plant

Now is the time to destroy any missed moth plant vines, while they are still clearly visible and flowering, and before pods form or mature. Moth plant is a South American vine; invasive in New Zealand and unfortunately well-established in Northland, Auckland, Waikato and the coastal Bay of Plenty where it can heavily infest orchard shelter belts.

Read more here.

Keep the reports coming

The message is the same for growers, contractors and anyone else on-orchard: stay vigilant, be on the lookout for unwanted pests and report anything unusual. Don't be afraid to report any suspect finds. Early detection is key to eradication and the sooner KVH is alerted the more we can do to help.

We're at the height of the risk-period for stink bugs and fruit flies. Be especially aware of any larvae in fruit.

Read more here.

Unwanted pest of the month

This month the focus is on Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). This pest is a threat to fruit crops in every country it has established in, resulting in major economic costs due to control, crop destruction and market access implications.

SWD has a wide range of hosts, including kiwiberries. There is no evidence of impacts to kiwifruit, but market access implications are possible should we have an incursion. Unlike most other vinegar flies - which attack damaged or rotting fruit - the SWD lays its eggs in ripening fruit, leaving it soft and unmarketable.

Read more here.

Fruit fly outbreaks close to home

Latest border interception information on fruit flies has been published in the February KVH risk update published online. Incorporating the latest data from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the update also includes surveillance trapping information. From almost 8,000 traps in place, no fruit flies of concern have been found this high-risk season.

There have been several fruit fly responses featured in the media recently, reminding us of the risk these organisms present. Across the Tasman there are two Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) outbreaks in Adelaide being managed by biosecurity officials, as well as a Mediterranean Fruit Fly outbreak, and QFF responses in Tasmania are currently underway. Latest news out of Western Australia is that an adult female QFF has been found in a surveillance trap just outside of the Fremantle CBD.

Read more here.

Latest Psa research available

The scientific research publications that drive our policies and management advice are added to our website as they are finalised. Growers are encouraged to look them up and have a browse of the many different reports we make available.

Two recently added publications are:

- A paper on monitoring effectiveness of wound protectants against Psa (the report notes that neither copper paste nor Inocbloc paste should be applied to girdling wounds).
- A paper on the efficacy of Ambitious on Psa on Hayward.

Read more here.

The successful science behind our greatest threat

Award-winning research behind the kiwifruit industry's response to Psa is a big reason for the industry's current success.

A team from Plant & Food Research, who were mobilised in late 2010 when Psa was first discovered in the Bay of Plenty, has been awarded the 2017 Prime Minister's Science Prize for their rapid and successful response.

As we know, the arrival of Psa into New Zealand had a major impact on the kiwifruit industry and while we responded strongly with every resource we had at the time, we were not prepared to deal with such a significant incursion.

Read more here.
