



KVH Snapshot – March 2018

Bye bye Barry and welcome Stu

After six years at KVH, current Chief Executive Barry O’Neil is leaving the organisation and the industry to focus on his orchard and governance roles. Read more [here](#).

KVH welcomes new Chief Executive Stu Hutchings to the team on Monday 26 March. Read more about Stu [here](#).

Top tips for harvest hygiene

Harvest season presents a high-risk period for spreading Psa or other biosecurity risks between blocks, orchards and regions because of the number of vehicles, machinery and people movements involved.

Growers are responsible for protecting their orchards by ensuring the movement of harvest equipment, people and bins onto and around their orchard is minimised.

Read more [here](#).

Welcome overseas workers, not their hitchhiking mates

As we enter harvest, and the corresponding annual influx of overseas workers, it’s time to consider the risk to the biosecurity of our industry presented by overseas workers – or more accurately, their clothing, footwear and tools.

There are many biosecurity threats in other growing regions around the world that are not here in New Zealand and which could have a devastating impact on our industry.

Read more [here](#).

Latest BMSB finds

There have been almost 2000 Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs (BMSB) found since the start of the high-risk season in September. More detail can be read in the March KVH Risk Update online.

Throughout February and March there were several media reports regarding car ships from Japan containing significant numbers of BMSB and Yellow Spotted Stink Bugs (YSSB). KVH has been strongly promoting the need to treat vehicles offshore so we don’t have this problem.

Read more [here](#).

Myrtle rust still on the move

There have been many new myrtle rust finds over recent weeks, including in Manawatu for the first time. Because of the persistent nature of this fungal infection, and so that they have the best chance to control it over the long-term, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has adjusted its management approach.

Treatment of infected plants now varies from street to street and region to region. MPI is working with affected property owners individually on options around self-managing infected plants where elimination of an infection isn't possible.

Read more [here](#).

An American perspective: when twenty-six thousand stink bugs invade your home

We discovered an interesting feature on the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) in the New Yorker magazine. Here's a teaser that certainly gets your attention:

One October night a few years back, Pam Stone was downstairs watching television with her partner, Paul Zimmerman, when it struck her that their house was unusually cold. Stone and Zimmerman live just outside Landrum, South Carolina, in an A-frame cabin; upstairs in their bedroom, French doors lead out to a raised deck. That week, autumn had finally descended on the Carolinas, killing off the mosquitoes and sending nighttime temperatures plummeting, and the previous evening the couple had opened those doors a crack to take advantage of the cool air. Now, sitting in front of the TV, Stone suddenly realized that she'd left them open and went up to close them.

Zimmerman was still downstairs when he heard her scream. He sprinted up to join her, and the two of them stood in the doorway, aghast. Their bedroom walls were crawling with insects - not dozens of them but hundreds upon hundreds. Stone knew what they were, because she'd seen a few around the house earlier that year and eventually posted a picture of one on Facebook and asked what it was. That's a stinkbug, a chorus of people had told her - specifically, a brown marmorated stink bug. Huh, Stone had thought at the time. Never heard of them. Now they were covering every visible surface of her bedroom.

Read the article [here](#).

Reminder to be on the lookout for anything unusual

Growers are asked to keep an eye out for signs of their fruit being affected by any pests or bugs, particularly deposits of white exudate on the outer skin. KVH and Zespri are working closely with a small number of growers in Northland (as well as with research experts) who have reported low levels of damage to some of their fruit, to learn more about what's happening to the fruit itself and what's been seen on the affected orchards.

Read more [here](#).

Get your news from the KVH podcast

Snapshot podcasts are now online summarising latest news and activities, seasonal orchard management advice, feature pests to be on the lookout for, and reminders of upcoming events. They're free and available now on [SoundCloud](#) or from Apple [iTunes](#).

Read more [here](#).

Biosecurity in the classroom

An exciting new biosecurity education kit is being test-driven in Bay of Plenty classrooms.

The kit is a biosecurity focussed pack for school children in years 1 to 8. It is designed to engage students in hands-on science activities in the classroom.

The activities come together in a challenging board game in which players work as a team to manage a biosecurity system that holds up against some of the world's nastiest invaders such as fruit flies and stink bugs.

Read more [here](#).

Six-year-old stink bug finder

Following the theme of future biosecurity champions, we were thrilled to get a report from a primary school about the discovery of a potential unwanted stink bug.

A six-year-old student at Matahui School in Katikati found a stink bug nymph, had Mum take a photo and then proudly showed the critter off to Dad. Being the small world that it is, Dads work sometimes relates to the kiwifruit industry and he had been contacted in the past by KVH about Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) so knew to make a report when he saw something unusual.

Read more [here](#).

Report confirms devastating impact of BMSB on horticulture

A new economic report says if the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) established in New Zealand it would dramatically impact our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as well as export revenues from horticulture.

For the kiwifruit industry alone the establishment of such a pest could result in production impacts in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Read more [here](#).

No more rural-urban divide

KVH was pleased to see that a new survey has found Kiwis – both rural and urban – hold similar and positive views on biosecurity, with most people agreeing that unwanted pests and diseases are a threat. Both urban and rural respondents also placed a high level of responsibility on all parts of society for helping to protect New Zealand from the entry or spread of pests and diseases.

Read more [here](#).

Stink bugs in Georgia

They say a picture can paint a thousand words. Photos and videos from Georgia show the impact the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) has had on crops in the European country over recent years and reminds us why we absolutely must keep it out of New Zealand.

As an example of the damage it can do to one product alone, BMSB destroyed much of the hazelnut harvest in Georgia last year resulting in damages of NZD\$84 million.

Read more [here](#).

New fruit fly finds

New border interception information about fruit flies has been published in the March KVH Risk Update. There have recently been two Queensland Fruit Fly larvae finds on fruit that was deposited in amnesty bins at airports, and Pacific Fruit Fly larvae has been intercepted on breadfruit being carried through Auckland airport by a traveller.

Read more [here](#).

Summer action at the border

It was a busy summer at New Zealand's borders, with increases in almost every type of intervention activity for cargo, vessels, mail and passengers.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) summer infographic report shows that stopping our most unwanted pests, namely fruit flies and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), is still a big focus and includes interesting statistics on all pathways.

Read more [here](#).

Consultation on Import Health Standard

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has been working on an Import Health Standard

for *Actinidia* nursery stock, specifically for plants *in vitro* (tissue culture). This pathway has not been active since 2013 as a result of the Psa incursion. Public consultation is due to start very shortly – lookout for more details on the KVH website.

Read more [here](#).

Rules reminder: importing kiwifruit seed

KVH is aware of an international website offering several varieties of kiwifruit seed for sale. This is concerning because buying seeds online for import into New Zealand could risk introducing a plant disease and there are strict rules around it.

Read more [here](#).

Unwanted feature pest of the month

Each month we profile one of the 12 most unwanted pests featured on our biosecurity excellence calendar. They could all potentially enter our borders and have a major impact on the local community and businesses, the kiwifruit industry or other local growers.

This month, the focus is on the Painted Apple Moth (PAM). A voracious and indiscriminate eater, the PAM from South Australia is a threat to horticulture, forestry, and possibly indigenous trees. It attacks the fruit and leaves of multiple horticultural crops and although kiwifruit is not a reported host an incursion may still have implications.

Read more [here](#).
