

KVH Snapshot – April 2018



Samurai stink bug slayer – have a say

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) Council, which KVH is a member of, has made an application to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for approval to release the Samurai Wasp as a biocontrol agent should an established population of BMSB be detected in New Zealand.

The EPA is currently seeking views from the public on the application. KVH is making a submission on behalf of the kiwifruit industry and we encourage growers to also have a say.

Read more [here](#).

Protecting orchards from Psa through autumn

Autumn is a high-risk period for Psa as cooler, wetter weather conditions favour multiplication and spread of disease. Growers should step up protection in line with these seasonal changes and individual orchard risk.

Read more [here](#).

North-West Auckland now a Psa Recovery region

Following the identification of additional Psa positive orchards and a grower meeting to discuss regional classification, North-West Auckland has moved from a Containment region to a Recovery region under the National Pest Management Plan (NPMP).

Read more [here](#).

Consultation on importing *Actinidia* plants

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is inviting growers to make comment on a proposed standard for importing *Actinidia* plants. KVH is making a submission on behalf of the industry and as part of that we're engaging with experts in the science community in New Zealand and internationally to ensure we have specific technical advice available on the risks of what is being proposed.

The consultation period runs until 5pm Friday 4 May.

Read more [here](#).

Fruit fly risk not going away

The threat posed by one of our most unwanted pests, the fruit fly, is still top-of-mind with recent finds of flies in fruit disposed of at our airport 'declare or dispose' bins, and incursions into previously pest-free areas of Australia.

Fruit fly control, surveillance and eradication activities continue in Tasmania, South Australia (Adelaide) and Perth (Fremantle). As part of control efforts in Adelaide two million sterile fruit flies have been airdropped over parts of the city in a bid to eradicate female flies – watch a video of this on the KVH website.

Read more [here](#).

Harvest hygiene guides

KVH has biosecurity pocket guides available which have been translated into several languages to promote harvest hygiene measures.

Harvest season presents a high-risk period for spreading Psa or other biosecurity risks between blocks, orchards and regions because of the numbers of vehicles, machinery and people movements involved. Everyone in contact with orchards at this time of the year must be fully aware of best practice orchard hygiene.

Read more [here](#).

Order nursery plants in advance

When we visit nurseries as part of the Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme (KPCS) we're reminded of how important it is to nurseries that growers order their plants well in advance.

Without a reliable estimate on anticipated demand for the next season, nurseries take a conservative approach to avoid getting left with unsold stock. Growers should order plants as far in advance as possible – preferably a year – to avoid any shortage in supply.

Read more [here](#).

New Chair for KVH Board

KVH has elected a new Board Chair, Dr David Tanner.

David has been a Director on the KVH Board since September 2016 and was elected Chair at the March Board meeting. With a wealth of experience in the kiwifruit industry, David brings to the role a career steeped in horticultural science and innovation leadership.

Read more [here](#).

Does your online shopping come with biosecurity risk?

The Sunday Star Times covered a story about MPI prosecuting a Christchurch botanist for illegally importing moss balls through online store AliExpress – the same website that has been known to offer kiwifruit seed for sale.

KVH fully supports the action taken by MPI because there could have been serious biosecurity impacts resulting from the illegal import. It also demonstrates that the system is working and online sites like this one are being scanned by officials.

Read more [here](#).

Snapshot of summer biosecurity stats and facts

New Zealand's border biosecurity defenders have been through their busiest summer on record. MPI summer statistics are a good indication of the pressure New Zealand's borders are facing.

In our snapshot of interesting statistics from December 2017 through to February 2018 two million air passengers arrived at our airports. That's 5% more than the previous summer.

Read more [here](#).

Support for airline food restrictions

KVH is backing MPI considerations to make changes to the amount of food air passengers can bring into New Zealand.

Due to the sheer volume of food being carried by passengers (sometimes longer-term visitors arrive with suitcase loads), border staff are spending hours not only considering biosecurity risk items but also identifying and clearing goods that don't pose any threat.

Read more [here](#).

MPI visit to develop plan

KVH and MPI have an agreement about how we prepare for and respond to biosecurity threats specific to the kiwifruit sector.

MPI recently visited to discuss our annual readiness plan for the year ahead. They also visited an orchard and packhouse while here to increase their understanding of how our industry operates and gain an appreciation of harvest in full swing.

Read more [here](#).

Unwanted! Bark beetles

Each month we profile an unwanted pest that could potentially enter our borders and have a major impact on local community and businesses, the kiwifruit industry or other local growers.

This month the focus is on bark beetles, a significant forestry pest. Many species of this pest can attack and kill healthy trees. Some closely related species of bark beetles have caused impacts to kiwifruit in Turkey where the beetles often attack vines that are already weakened by disease, drought, physical and frost damage.

Read more [here](#).

In the news

Watch the Rural Delivery feature on the 'Port of Excellence' initiative where biosecurity has been integrated into strategic and day-to-day operations. Also read about Georgie, the nation's first and only Detector Dog dedicated to hunting out BMSB.

Read more [here](#).

Check imports and report the unusual

KVH is aware of people waiting for or recently receiving cars that were shipped to New Zealand on the vessels detected with BMSB and Yellow Spotted Stink Bug (YSSB). They have been treated, however there is never zero risk and we ask all private and commercial machinery importers and transitional facilities to carefully inspect machinery.

Read more [here](#).

Managing myrtle rust over time

MPI and the Department of Conservation (DOC) say the fight against myrtle rust is changing gear, given the prevalence of the disease across susceptible parts of New Zealand.

Response activities will now move from intensive surveillance and the removal and destruction of host plants, to managing the disease over the long term.

Read more [here](#).
