

# KVH Snapshot – May 2018



## BMSB summer summary

KVH co-funded a nationwide summer Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) education campaign with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and other horticultural sectors to lift public awareness around the damaging impacts of this pest and increase the likelihood of early detection.

The results of the summer campaign are in. There were 931 calls to the MPI biosecurity hotline (more than double the previous year) and over 6.5 million views of online ads.

Read more [here](#).

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## Biocontrol defense against BMSB

KVH has made a submission on behalf of the kiwifruit industry to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) who have been seeking public opinion on an application seeking approval to release the Samurai Wasp as a biocontrol agent against BMSB, but only if an incursion is found in New Zealand.

Read more [here](#).

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## Applying copper after harvest

It's highly recommended growers apply copper immediately after harvest, with full winter rates as per the KVH Recommended Product List, providing maximum protection of fruit stalk and leaf scars from Psa.

Studies suggest movement of product into fruit stalk scars occurs much more readily immediately after harvest versus sprays applied a week later.

Read more [here](#).

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## Remove unpicked kiwifruit from vines

Growers are reminded that unpicked kiwifruit must be removed from vines by 1 July.

Unpicked fruit can increase the amount of wild kiwifruit plants establishing in nearby areas of native bush or exotic forestry as fruit ripening over the winter months provides a food source for birds.

Read more [here](#).

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## Moving budwood

Budwood movement will be a focus for many suppliers and growers at this time of year, particularly those cutting over to new licences and those with new plantings. As budwood poses the highest risk of disease transfer KVH has issued advice for growers about sourcing and moving stock.

Read more [here](#).

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## Managing risk from imported plants could stop the next incursion

KVH has made a submission on behalf of the kiwifruit industry to MPI on the proposed Import Health Standard (IHS) for *Actinidia* plants for planting.

KVH recognises importing new kiwifruit material is an important part of maintaining the competitive advantage of our industry, however the submission focuses on the level of uncertainty around potential risk of introducing new biosecurity threats and how this risk must be carefully managed so that if the pathway is enacted, it is robust and reduces risk to the kiwifruit industry.

Read more [here](#).

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## Fine for failing to declare risky plants

An air traveller who deliberately failed to declare plant materials to quarantine officers has been fined \$3,300 by the Manukau District Court.

Arriving at Auckland Airport the traveller ticked the "no" box next to the question on her declaration card asking whether she was bringing plants into New Zealand. A baggage search revealed concealed seeds. Plant cuttings are a serious biosecurity risk for the kiwifruit industry (and other horticultural industries). KVH supports the courts and MPI taking strong action.

Read more [here](#).

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## Monitor and remove Psa to protect next crop

The cooler seasons are here and new active cankers with exudate were found on orchards in several regions in late April and early May. For growers who have completed harvest, now is a good time to complete a round of Psa monitoring to identify areas where you may need to modify your pruning strategy to ensure as much Psa as possible is removed from the canopy.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Two more stink bug trainees**

Two stink bug detector dogs are being trained to join Georgie – who proved her sniffing skills at the Auckland wharf over summer in her dealings with contaminated bulk carriers from Japan. One of the candidates is Daisy, a pointer cross, the other is Bodie, a labrador.

Read more [here](#).

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## **KVH AGM**

KVH's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place at 9am on Thursday 26 July 2018, at the ASB Arena in Mount Maunganui. Growers will receive their AGM packs in the mail early in July. This is a public meeting and anyone who is interested is most welcome to attend. The NZKGI and Zespri AGMs will follow immediately afterwards.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Nominations for KVH Board grower directors**

The KVH Board is calling for nominations for three grower directors. Existing Directors David Tanner and Simon Cook will be standing for re-election to the Board. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the KVH website and must be returned to KVH by 5pm Wednesday 13 June 2018.

Read more [here](#).

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## **The new Biosecurity New Zealand**

KVH attended the launch of Biosecurity New Zealand, one of four new business units created within MPI to provide a stronger focus on key areas of work. Minister for Biosecurity Damien O'Connor said at the launch pest incursions and disease outbreaks threaten our biodiversity and we need a greater focus on biosecurity. In addition, a 25-strong biosecurity intelligence unit has been announced.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Fruit fly treated before arrival**

An Auckland MPI biosecurity officer recently detected suspected fruit fly eggs and larvae when inspecting a breadfruit consignment from Fiji. Spotting a tell-tale soft spot on the fruit, the officer decided to investigate further by opening up the breadfruit for inspection.

Read more [here](#).

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### KVH at Fieldays

The KVH team will be in the Zespri tent at the National Fieldays at Mystery Creek, Hamilton, Wednesday 13 – Friday 15 June 2018. Please come and visit the KVH stall for a chat at any point throughout the day. We are keen to discuss any questions, issues, or suggestions you have about biosecurity.

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### BMSB expertise from Chile

KVH and New Zealand Avocado hosted a discussion about BMSB with Ilania Astorga from Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero, the Chilean equivalent of our MPI.

Attended by biosecurity experts, industry representatives and scientists from across the region, the discussion focused on where and when BMSB has been found since the bug was first detected in urban Santiago (the Chilean response is still confined to an urban environment). Initiatives currently underway to manage it, including surveillance and trapping activities were also discussed.

Read more [here](#).

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### Conference raises Xylella awareness

KVH attended the Better Border Biosecurity (B3) conference in Wellington. B3 is a joint venture for plant biosecurity science in New Zealand.

A presentation that caught everyone's attention was a keynote talk on the biosecurity threat of *Xylella fastidiosa* to New Zealand. *Xylella fastidiosa* is a bacterium that has caused severe impacts to the Californian wine industry and is currently decimating the Italian olive industry, killing over a million olive trees. Kiwifruit is not a known host however there are complexities associated with this pathogen.

Read more [here](#).

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### Wild kiwifruit vines and pest threats discussed at Council hearings

KVH staff have presented to two Council committee meetings considering submissions made jointly with NZKGI.

The first presentation was to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) hearings committee considering submissions to their proposed Long-Term Plan. The Plan allocates Council's funding to specific workstreams and projects over the next 10 years. The second presentation was to Marlborough District Council's (MDC) proposed Regional Pest Management Plan hearing. This Plan determines which organisms will be named as pests and the management approach for them.

Read more [here](#).

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### Unwanted pest of the month

Each month KVH profiles one of the 12 most unwanted pests featured on the 'Port of Tauranga – committed to biosecurity excellence' calendar. Any of these pests could potentially enter our borders and have a major impact on Bay of Plenty people and businesses, the kiwifruit industry or other local growers.

This month the focus is a significant threat to the avocado industry, the Shot Hole Borer. These are small beetles that are a destructive pest of forest trees and attack fruit, shade and ornamental trees.

Read more [here](#).

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### Listen to the latest news

Snapshot is the podcast from KVH. Every month the KVH team bring you a summary of recent news and activities, seasonal orchard management advice, feature pests to be on the lookout for, and reminders of upcoming events. The Snapshot is free and available on Soundcloud and Apple iTunes.

Read more [here](#).

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### Keep NZ free from stink bug winter woes

We may be out of the high-risk season for BMSB but that's no reason to stop being on the lookout. KVH and other horticultural product groups are working together to keep the BMSB profile up over the winter months.

Read more [here](#).

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### Working with government to prepare for incursions

In the days following the release of the Budget there was a lot of media discussion around preparing for and funding biosecurity incursions, particularly after the Finance Minister appeared on the TVNZ Q&A show Sunday 20 May. KVH was asked for comment by media.

Read more [here](#).

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### New research reports

One of the key lessons from the Psa response was the need to have rapid diagnostic tests available for our most significant biosecurity threats, therefore developing tests for specific organisms is one of the priorities for the biosecurity research portfolio. Two new reports have recently been put up on the KVH website.

Read more [here](#).