

MARCH 2021

KVH Snapshot

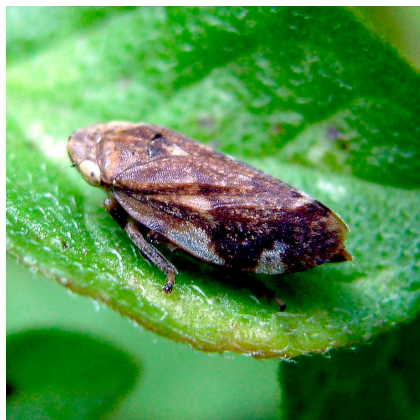
NEWS YOU CAN USE



Prepared by
KIWIFRUIT VINE HEALTH
WWW.KVH.ORG.NZ

Ko Tātou
THIS IS US BIOSECURITY 2025

Keep an eye out for spittlebugs



Xylella fastidiosa, a deadly bacterial pathogen, is having a devastating impact across horticultural industries in Europe and the USA. This disease can infect many different plants and while the full scale of potential damage to kiwifruit in New Zealand (if it got here) remains somewhat unknown, for many crops it will be devastating.

[Read more here](#)

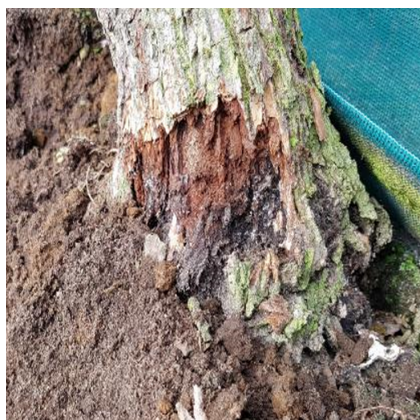
Advice for hosting or joining a field day



On-orchard field days and events are an opportunity to share valuable information; however, they can also lead to the spread of unwanted pests and diseases through the movement of people, machinery, tools and goods. KVH has produced a best practice poster to help reduce biosecurity risk.

[Read more here.](#)

Kiwifruit Phytophthora survey



KVH, Zespri and Plant & Food Research are currently working together on a survey of *Phytophthora* pathogens in kiwifruit orchards throughout New Zealand. This project will support New Zealand's biosecurity by better understanding our current baseline of *Phytophthora* species associated with kiwifruit.

[Read more here.](#)

The KVH Snapshot provides you with brief biosecurity messages that you can reproduce and share. Contact lisa.gibbison@kvh.org.nz for more information related to the topics listed, or to add others to the Snapshot distribution list.

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 numbers of vehicles, machinery and people movements involved. Growers are responsible for protecting their orchards, and others, by ensuring the movement risk of harvest equipment, people, and bins onto and around their orchard is minimised.

[Read more here.](#)

Learning from the M.bovis review

KVH is pleased Government and industry have announced their commitment to finding out what more can be learnt from the biosecurity response to Mycoplasma bovis (M.bovis).

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) announced it will conduct an independent review into the M.bovis response, which was first found in New Zealand in 2017 and is thought likely to have entered the country two years before that.

[Read more here.](#)

Fine for seeds in trousers

A Rotorua bus driver was fined \$4,500 last month for attempting to smuggle seeds through Auckland Airport. The fine follows the detection of five packets of vegetable seeds in a zip pocket of a pair of trousers in the man's baggage in September 2019.

Bringing in or buying seeds online for import into New Zealand is a huge risk as unfortunately, many seeds aren't what they say they are and more importantly do not meet New Zealand's strict biosecurity rules and could risk introducing a plant disease.

[Read more here.](#)

Stink bug confirmed in the UK

Scientists say the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) has arrived in Britain, after most probably hitching a ride on packaging crates. Further monitoring is underway to determine if the pest is well established and the extent of its distribution there.

[Read more here.](#)

Keeping up with sleeper pests

KVH recently attended a great workshop hosted by Manaaki Whenua on 'sleeper pests' – pest plants, animals and pathogens which are already in New Zealand but are kept in check by factors such as host unavailability and cold.

It is important to be involved in such projects because we know that threats to our industry aren't only those found offshore - they could already be here, and either not exposed to kiwifruit yet, or the conditions aren't right for impacts to occur.

[Read more here.](#)

Keep the reports coming

We often get phone calls and emails from growers and members of the public who think they may have found an unusual disease symptom, or a pest from our most unwanted list. This is a good thing – it shows people are on the lookout and aware.

With a lot of people on orchards for harvest, we're getting an increased number of reports and emails (thankfully, they've been of things that are either native and or established).

[Read more here.](#)

Waiting for picking? Zap those weeds

Autumn is a good time to identify and remove harmful weeds remaining in orchard shelter belts, or any area adjacent to the orchard. For example, the flowerheads of the invasive South American pampas grass have just emerged (not to be confused with the native toetoe which flowered in October). Any pampas seed on fruit is a serious and significant reject factor – it is very difficult for the rollers to remove these seeds in the pack-house.

[Read more here.](#)

Gardens an early warning tool for pests

A new generation of bug hunters is being built through combining education outside the classroom with good old-fashioned gardening. Students are learning how to protect what they're growing and look out for harmful pests.

[Read more here.](#)

BMSB season by the numbers



Since the start of the high-risk season for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) in September 2020, activities to find and manage the risk of this unwanted pest have included thousands of different inspections and detector dog team visits.

[Read more here.](#)

Fun Fact



One of the challenges of COVID-19 has been ensuring underworked detector dogs get sufficient exercise. To ensure our four-legged biosecurity sniffers stay fit for duty, Biosecurity New Zealand has a deal with Blind Low Vision NZ to use their guide dog exercise facility. Although travel restrictions have meant a huge drop in international passenger arrivals, there is still work for detector dogs as they have an important screening role at transitional facilities and the International Mail Centre.

Risk of giant snails sliding in to the country



Australian biosecurity officers have helped prevent a significant es-cargo-t risk from sliding into the country, with several Giant African Snail (GAS) interceptions. While we don't have as many interceptions in New Zealand they are occasionally found and are a big risk. If the GAS were to establish here, it would be a risk to over 500 different kinds of plants and most vegetables.

[Read more here.](#)