

# KVH Snapshot

NEWS YOU CAN USE



## Psa THE NEW ZEALAND STORY

Reflections from the kiwifruit industry's biggest biosecurity response and recovery



Bought to you by  
Kiwifruit Vine Health

PETER WEST

### GROUND ZERO

For most of Peter West's life, 5 November has been linked to the fizz and bang of Guy Fawkes' night. He cheerfully tossed his share of firecrackers as a boy and show. Later, when he managed a Te Puke orchard, it was a night for vigilance, as he protected his beloved Black Labrador dogs from the noise of neighbourhood fireworks.

But that innocent pleasure made a vicious official anniversary and a night of horror when a massive firestorm swept through the orchard.

As soon as Guy Fawkes day in 2020, Peter West's orchard was hit by a massive firestorm. The fire was caused by a power line fault and spread rapidly, burning through the orchard and surrounding area.

With the orchard destroyed, Peter West was left with a massive loss. He had to start again, rebuilding the orchard from the ground up.



PETER WEST

ANDREW  
DAWSON

### I LEARNED RESILIENCE. TO KEEP FIGHTING AND PUSHING

Less than a year after buying his first orchard, Andrew Dawson began calling old friends to quietly hunt for alternative jobs.

In early 2020, Andrew Dawson had just bought his first orchard. He was excited and ready to start his new life in the industry.

But then, everything changed. The orchard was hit by a massive firestorm, and Andrew was left with a massive loss.

Andrew was resilient and kept fighting and pushing. He started looking for alternative jobs and eventually found a new opportunity.



ANDREW DAWSON

## The impact of Psa seared into the mind



In honour of the 10 year anniversary (November 2010) of Psa being discovered, KVH has commissioned and just released a keepsake booklet which tells some of the stories from early in the response. While many growers would prefer to forget these harrowing days, capturing these stories and the lessons from our past experiences is important to improve our preparedness for future incursions.

[Read more here](#)

## New Chief Executive announced



We were delighted to announce in early April that Leanne Stewart has been appointed KVH's new Chief Executive.

Leanne is currently Deputy Chief Executive at Horticulture New Zealand and brings to the team a wealth of experience and knowledge in management of biosecurity risks, having worked in plant health for government, international and industry organisations.

[Read more here.](#)

## Pathway Plan submitted



After a two-week review period, KVH has submitted the proposal for a kiwifruit National Pathway Management Plan to Government. Thank you again to everyone for taking part in the development of the Plan, and for sharing your thoughts on the proposal. From here, it is likely that the parliamentary process (where the proposal is assessed and approved by the Minister for Biosecurity, based on official's advice) will take approximately 12 months.

[Read more here.](#)

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

## Podcast and farewell from Stu

A new Snapshot podcast is out now, featuring a chat with Stu Hutchings in his final days as Chief Executive here at KVH.

Stu started his new role as New Zealand's first Chief Biosecurity Officer in mid-April and in the podcast he talks about how his experience in the kiwifruit and animal health industries will help him look into New Zealand's biosecurity system. He also talks about how important it is for industry groups like KVH to continue to work alongside growers and central government day-to-day.

[Read more here.](#)

## High-risk pests kept away

We're nearing the end but still in the high-risk season for fruit flies - one of the kiwifruit industry's most unwanted pests.

The latest update is now available on the KVH website, showing that since the start of the high-risk season in September there have been no Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) finds. There was however a detection of another type of fruit fly late last year, on watermelon from Tonga.

[Read more here.](#)

## Man fined for biosecurity breaches

An Auckland businessman has been convicted and fined \$30,000 for breaking rules intended to keep New Zealand safe from pests and diseases and trying to cover it up.

The manager and owner of Divine Logistics Ltd provided investigators with false documents when questioned about how and where imported sea containers were opened.

[Read more here.](#)

## Biggest offshore threats monitored

KVH maintains a register of potential biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry, increasing our awareness of offshore risks and ensuring we are ready for the next possible biosecurity event.

[Read more here.](#)

## Use stock feed but stop the spread of wild kiwifruit

It's the time of year where there is a surplus of kiwifruit that can be used as a stock feed.

Kiwifruit is a good quality feed commonly used as dry cow feed and Dairy NZ has provided advice to Bay of Plenty farms about how to stockpile fruit and use it for best cow health.

KVH is supportive of reject fruit being used as stock feed (although processing is our first preference), but it must be managed using best practice.

[Read more here.](#)

## Appreciation of interest in Phytophthora survey

KVH has thanked growers who offered their sites for inclusion in the industry Phytophthora survey. We're thrilled to have 25 orchards sampled this autumn. The next sample round will be in spring, with focus shifting to the South Island growing region, and north to Auckland, Whangarei and Kerikeri.

We welcome interest from anyone (with vines with known or suspected Phytophthora symptoms) about being included in the project.

[Read more here.](#)

## Reminder to 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 those businesses that growers order their plants well in advance. Without a reliable estimate of demand for the next season nurseries take a conservative approach to avoid getting left with unsold stock.

Growers must only purchase plants that are KPCS certified and KVH movement controls must be observed.

[Read more here.](#)

## Research supports use of Actigard

A joint research project involving Zespri/KVH, Plant & Food Research and Syngenta, has shown that kiwifruit vines are responsive to post-harvest applications of Actigard. Genes that are understood to activate the vine's natural defence were "switched on" soon after application.

[Read more here.](#)

## Autumn Psa strategies important

Growers have been reminded of the value of monitoring their orchards for evidence of Psa through autumn. Psa inoculum can be mobile within orchards regardless of the time of year but risk always increases as temperatures drop and periods of rain increase.

A strong copper programme is recommended to protect new development blocks and also harvested blocks, as well as Actigard for blocks where there is no risk of residue to unharvested fruit.

[Read more here.](#)

## Moving budwood

Budwood movement will be a focus for many suppliers and growers at this time of year, particularly those with new licences cutting over to new varieties and/or putting in new plantings. As plant material movements present a high-risk of disease transfer, growers are reminded to follow all KVH requirements if sending, receiving, or transferring budwood between KPINs.

[Read more here.](#)

## BMSB caught

We're still in the high-risk season for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) and there have been a couple of finds over the last few weeks, proving we can never let our guard down.

A live BMSB was found at a transitional facility in Auckland, in tiles from Italy, and a dead bug was found in a returnee's managed isolation hotel room. Both events were thoroughly investigated with no further BMSB detected.

[Read more here.](#)

## Trans-Tasman travel on the cards?

The Trans-Tasman bubble is open, which means new ads are popping up in airports across Australia reminding travellers of New Zealand's strict biosecurity requirements. It's been a while since most of us have travelled internationally, so if you're going overseas, don't forget to clean your shoes and check your bags for fruit or other biosecurity risk items when you return to New Zealand and remind anyone coming to your home or orchard too.

[Read more here.](#)

## Last days of 'most wanted' pest hunt

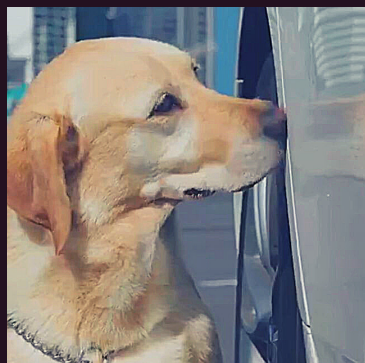


Calling all adventurers! Have you got what it takes to hunt down the 18 'most wanted' invasive insects, animals, weeds, and diseases to protect the Bay of Plenty?

The great biosecurity hunt got underway at the start of the month and you have until 3 May to take part. There are three virtual hunts in Mount Maunganui, Papamoa, and Tauranga, and there are still prizes up for grabs.

[Read more here.](#)

## Fun Fact



Ever wondered exactly what Quarantine Officers and specially trained Detector Dogs do at the front line to check ships and containers for unwanted threats?

Meet some of the team from Biosecurity New Zealand (including the four-legged kind). Georgie features – that's her in the photo using her nose to indicate exactly where on an imported vehicle she's sensed a pest.

[Read more here.](#)

## Spot the Spotted Lanternfly



Check out that camouflage! There are two Spotted Lanternfly egg masses on this tree – can you spot them?

[Read more here.](#)



## Easier than ever to forecast disease risk



With the launch of a new version of the KVH Weather & Disease Portal it's now easier for growers to see and assess weather patterns for their orchards.

Everything from the current portal is available within the new version along with extended 15-day forecasts for every weather station location; an updated dashboard featuring current conditions and evapotranspiration (ET); and mobile-friendly design improvements.

[Read more here.](#)

## KPCS nurseries come together



Twenty nurseries and other associated parties were represented at the start of the month at a KVH forum to strengthen communication and partnership with plant producer members of the Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme (KPCS).

There were several presentations related to enhancements of the KPCS so that it aligns well with the proposed new Pathway Management Plan and Plant Production Biosecurity Scheme.

[Read more here.](#)

## 100 million fruit flies



100 million .... read that again .... 100 million! That's approximately how many insects are being used throughout South Australia to help eradicate unwanted fruit flies. The Riverland region is 'under siege' and battling numerous outbreaks of Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF). In metropolitan Adelaide, as well as QFF, they are battling 10 Mediterranean Fruit Fly outbreaks, covering more than 310 suburbs. Releasing sterile fruit flies is part of eradication efforts, aimed at ending the life cycle of wild flies.

[Read more here.](#)