



Media Release

25 October 2012

Positive Psa-V result on Kerikeri orchard

Kiwifruit Vine Health (KVH) has received a Psa-V positive test result on a male vine in an Enza Gold orchard in Kerikeri. This is the first confirmed case of Psa-V in the Kerikeri region.

KVH has established a 'Kerikeri controlled area' around the infected orchard. This controlled area includes 102 orchards in the Kerikeri region. A map of the area is available for growers on the KVH website at www.kvh.org.nz/maps.

The growers within the newly established controlled area are being advised of the situation. KVH will hold a meeting for growers on Monday 29 October, 2pm at the Turner Centre, 43 Cobham Road, Kerikeri.

KVH Chief Executive, Barry O'Neil, said the disease is likely to have been present, but undetected in the region for several months. "Like other regions recently confirmed with Psa-V, based on the symptoms seen in Kerikeri we believe it has been undetected in the area for six months or more. It's likely to have been inadvertently introduced into the area through the movement of plant material or infected orchard equipment.

"Spring is when kiwifruit vines break from winter dormancy and Psa-V symptoms are much more visible. The finding in Kerikeri is another reminder that Psa-V could be present, but undetected, in other kiwifruit-growing regions. Therefore, it is essential growers do all they can to protect their orchards, even if the signs of Psa-V have not yet been identified in their area.

"Given the distance between Kerikeri and the closest infected orchard in Franklin, this find is disappointing for the industry and will be a big blow to growers in the region. Northland growers have been proactive with their orchard management activities in an attempt to keep Psa-V out of the area." said Barry.

Growers in the Kerikeri controlled area are being advised the following.

- Monitor orchards extensively and report any suspicious Psa-V symptoms to KVH on 0800 665 825.
- Implement and maintain a protective spray programme.
- Maintain strict orchard hygiene procedures.
- No kiwifruit plant material, including budwood and nursery stock, along with any potentially contaminated orchard equipment, can be moved out of this area.

KVH representatives are working with growers to ensure extensive monitoring of orchards is carried out.

For more information about best-practice orchard management protocols, see the [Grower](#) sections on the KVH website www.kvh.org.nz.

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For more information about the *Kerikeri Controlled Area Requirements* document on the KVH website www.kvh.org.nz/movement_controls.

Media enquiries phone KVH on 0800 665 825 or mobile 0275 019 666.