



# KVH INFORMATION SHEET

## BMSB risk update November 2018

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is considered one of the greatest biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry, and many other horticultural industries. Its entry and establishment in New Zealand would result in significant production and lifestyle impacts.

BMSB is native to parts of Asia but has been invading North America and Europe over recent years. It has also been detected in Chile.

### Since the start of the summer high-risk period in September 2018

- There have been 23 live BMSB finds.
- Most of the bugs have been found in personal effects and goods originating in Italy (10 BMSB). By comparison, there have been seven from China.

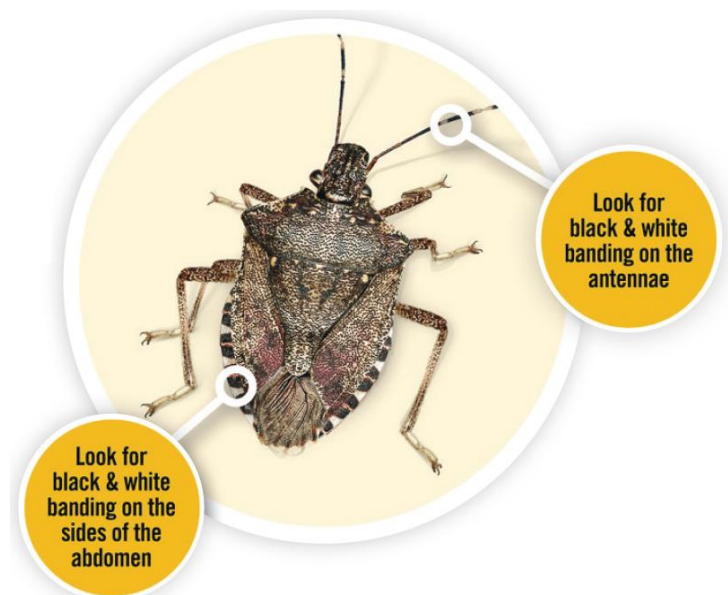
### During the four weeks from 20 October to 19 November 2018

- There have been 11 interceptions, comprising of 18 live BMSB.
- Most of the interceptions were at the border in passengers' personal effects. In one instance a female BMSB was found on a search bench at Auckland International Airport.
- Post border interceptions were all by individuals returning from overseas. One BMSB was found in a Wellington home by a person who had been in Canada; one BMSB was found in an Auckland home after the occupant had been in Austria; and a passenger who had recently been in Italy found a BMSB in their luggage while travelling domestically.

There were only three live BMSB finds in the same reporting period last season (compared to 18 this season), demonstrating how real the risk is - it is important to remain vigilant and keep watch. The earlier we find an unwanted bug, the greater the chance of successful eradication.

### What is being done to reduce the risk?

- Proactive initiatives are underway by MPI to manage the risk of BMSB crossing our borders during this year's high-risk period. As with previous stink bug seasons, there is increased surveillance and inspection of arriving ships and cargo from countries with established stink bug populations. Read more in detail on the [KVH website](#).
- If an arriving ship is infested with stink bug it will be prevented from discharging its cargo and directed to leave New Zealand. If a single bug is found, MPI will thoroughly investigate whether the entire vessel is contaminated.
- The list of countries requiring mandatory treatment of vehicles and machinery continues to grow and with the addition of Turkey and Croatia is now at 16.



- Used imports from Japan need to be both treated and cleaned offshore as part of an approved system. All other new and used imports from other countries need to be treated or go through an approved system.
- Used machinery from any country must have a certificate proving it has undergone thorough cleaning and treatment before arrival in New Zealand. There must be evidence the machinery was disassembled for cleaning. It must also arrive with a sticker showing how and when it was treated.
- KVH is a member of the steering group that has successfully applied to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for pre-approval to release the Samurai Wasp should BMSB establish here. The wasp is our most promising control strategy, and a natural enemy of the BMSB that can provide ongoing population suppression. It's the size of a poppy seed and completely harmless to humans and animals, except stink bugs. Read more about this major milestone on the [KVH website](#).
- KVH is co-funding a nationwide education and awareness campaign with government and other groups across horticulture. This includes print, social media and on-demand TV advertising. BMSB posters, flyers, and fact sheets have been distributed to pack-houses, transitional facilities, ports, and packhouses, and featured prominently during the [Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital Biosecurity Week](#) in October.
- KVH has stocked the Mount Maunganui and Cruise Terminal i-Sites with biosecurity flyers raising awareness about high-risk pest threats (mainly BMSB) potentially hitchhiking their way across our borders.
- A pilot surveillance programme has been established to provide early warning of BMSB incursions. This programme consists of monitoring for BMSB presence using lure traps on or near specific hosts at more than 25 high-risk transitional facilities throughout the country. The traps are inspected fortnightly and so far, there have been no BMSB found.



## What can you do?

**Read and share the BMSB videos and fact sheets on the [KVH website](#). Talk about it with your friends and family and ensure they are aware too.**

### What's happening around the world?

- The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has received information about potential increased risk to New Zealand posed by goods from Croatia and Turkey, so has added both countries to the list of those targeted at the border.
- A ship found to have live BMSB onboard has been stopped by biosecurity officials in Australia. The ship was due to visit New Zealand so MPI and Australian counterparts are working together and sharing information about likely actions going forward.
- Heat treatment of used vehicles in Japan continues, with treatment providers notifying biosecurity officials when bugs are found, indicating suitable aggregation conditions.
- 29 new vehicle and machinery BMSB systems have been approved in Japan to clear risk goods before export. There are now 137 offshore treatment providers on the New Zealand/Australia approval list to undertake BMSB treatment in Asia and Europe.