



KVH INFORMATION SHEET

BMSB risk update January 2019

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 165 live BMSB finds, compared to 96 to date last year.
- Most of the bugs have been found in personal effects and goods originating in the USA, Italy and China.

During the four weeks from 20 December 2018 to 18 January 2019

- There were 79 live BMSB found.
- There were 11 interceptions of BMSB at the border, in passengers' personal effects, cargo, and mail.
- Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) staff found live BMSB in general cargo (from Europe and the USA) on two vessels. In both cases offshore treatment failures are likely the cause and affected cargo - segregated from other cargo by airtight containers - has been directed out of New Zealand.
- Although small numbers of bugs are being found on vessels, offshore treatment measures are proving to be effective in managing BMSB aggregations with many dead bugs being found in cargo from treated containers.
- There were several post-border detections, almost all discovered by individuals who had recently returned from overseas travel and made a report to MPI. Other post-border detections were of a single live female BMSB spotted in the domestic terminal at Auckland airport, and another single live female found at a transitional facility in Christchurch.
- All post-border detections were followed-up by incursion investigators and no further BMSB were found.
- After discoveries in late December and early January of one live BMSB in Mount Maunganui and Auckland, MPI officials have visited and inspected local transitional facilities, undertaken maildrops to homes in the area to raise awareness of the risk, and KVH and other horticultural industry groups have worked together to do more advertising about the importance of being on the lookout (and reporting) for these unwanted bugs.
- No further bugs have been found - there is no evidence of a BMSB population, or that the two detections are related to each other.

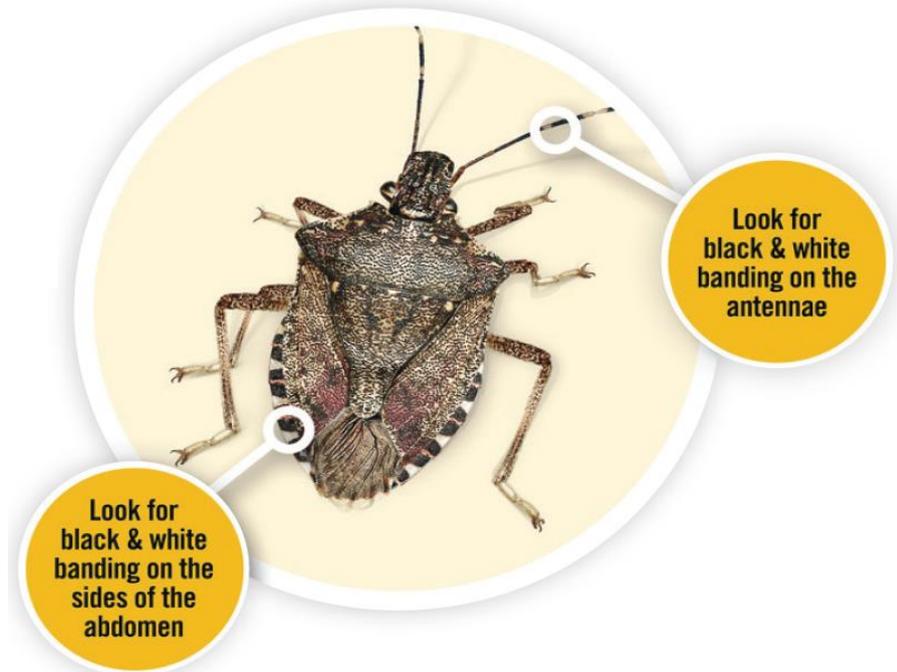
These interceptions, particularly the one in Mount Maunganui, demonstrate how real the risk is to the kiwifruit industry - it is important to remain vigilant and keep watch. The earlier we find an unwanted bug, the greater the chance of successful eradication.

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](#).



- There are 16 countries on the list of those requiring mandatory treatment of vehicles and machinery.
- Used imports from Japan need to be 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.
- Three major treatment providers in Italy have been suspended as live BMSB were found in offshore treated cargo, and another two providers are under investigation. A joint trip with Australian officials is planned to visit the providers and ensure required improvements are made.
- KVH is co-funding a nationwide education and awareness campaign with government and other groups across horticulture. This includes print, social media, on-demand TV advertising, and distribution of awareness material.
- 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. All sites have been inspected six times, with no BMSB found.
- Trans-tasman information sharing has resulted in a container of resin chairs from Italy being placed on high-alert. Australian officials found BMSB in a shipment of the chairs and channeled information through to MPI when they became aware another shipment from the same supplier was heading to New Zealand. The container was treated on arrival, as per import requirements, and was found to be infested with dead BMSB post-fumigation.



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.

If you see this pest or anything else unusual catch it, take a photo and report it to MPI on 0800 80 99 66 or KVH on 0800 665 825.