



KVH INFORMATION SHEET

BMSB risk update February 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 173 live BMSB finds.
- Most of the bugs have been found on ships and in personal effects, originating in the USA, Italy and China.

During the four weeks from 19 January to 20 February 2019

- There were seven live BMSB found, compared to six finds for the same period during last season.
- Three interceptions of BMSB were at the border, in passengers' personal effects, cargo, and on ships.
- The other four interceptions were post-border. One BMSB was found crawling on an office wall at a Christchurch transitional facility; one was found in a mail package from Italy; one was found by a person who had recently been on an American cruise; and one was found by a traveller who opened their luggage when they arrived home in New Zealand from Canada.
- No aggregations of live BMSB were found in cargo over this period. Aggregations of dead BMSB have been found after required treatments, which are proving to be effective in managing BMSB.

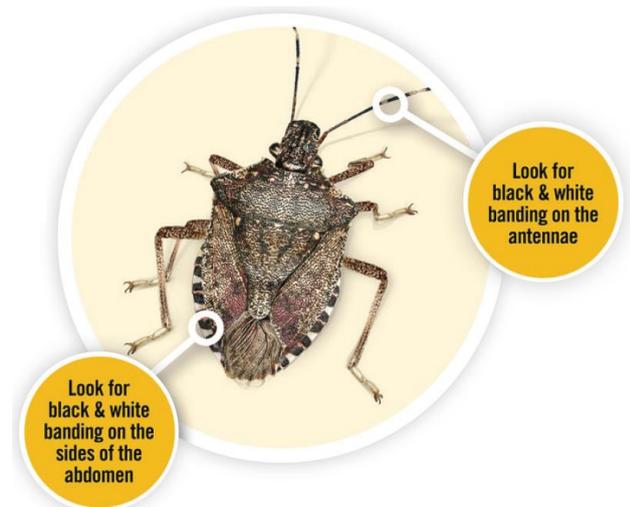
These interceptions, particularly the post border finds, demonstrate how real the risk of BMSB is to the kiwifruit industry - it is important to remain vigilant and keep watch. The earlier we find an unwanted bug, the greater the chance of successful eradication.

What is being done to reduce the risk?

- Proactive initiatives are underway by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Government Industry Agreement (GIA) partners 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.
- Used imports from Japan need to be treated and cleaned offshore as part of an approved system. All other new and used imports from BMSB risk 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.
- MPI has met with Australian counterparts twice in the last month to align BMSB risk countries. The draft list of countries is at 33 and concentrates on the risk posed by vehicles. Criteria for inclusion on the risk are pest population and spread; location, suitable climate and in-country actions; and intelligence/detections.



- Officials from both countries have examined the operational feasibility and resourcing impacts of the number of countries on the list. Treatments rates and methodology will be aligned, and discussions are being held about the joint approach to contaminated vessels.
- In January, officials jointly visited Italy and Belgium. Three suspended Italian heat treatment providers were audited and reinstated once they understood and demonstrated the correct placement of temperature sensors within contents of containers, which was the main fault associated with their original suspension.
- A large group meeting was held at the port of Antwerp with a major shipper of vehicles for Europe, the local logistics company and treatment provider. Several senior managers flew in for the meeting. An open invitation meeting was also held in Brussels where around 30 European shippers and treatment providers attended for a question and answer information session.
- In late January Minister for Biosecurity, Damien O'Connor, visited Mount Maunganui to meet staff who were involved in the investigation into the December BMSB find in the local area. Minister O'Connor met MPI staff, agriculture and port representatives and GIA partners, including KVH staff to show his thanks for the trapping, surveillance, and public awareness work that was undertaken by the team over the Christmas period. The Minister made particular note of how well the region has been working as one co-ordinated group, on behalf of all New Zealand, not just during this BMSB investigation but also with the adoption of the Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital initiative.
- New Zealand and Australian biosecurity staff are attending an international BMSB conference in Georgia in March.
- 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. There were 224 calls made to the 0800 pest line in January, and there were over 8,000 visitors to the BMSB web page.
- 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 eight times, with 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.

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.