



National Psa-V Pest Management Plan

A summary

May 2013

The Government has formally approved the establishment of the National Psa-V Pest Management Plan (NPMP), and confirmed Kiwifruit Vine Health as the agency responsible for implementing this.

This document summarises some of the information relevant to groups in the industry. *

WHY IS THERE A PLAN?

Since the first detection in November 2010, Psa-V has caused serious and widespread damage to the New Zealand kiwifruit industry. This is also happening in other kiwifruit-growing countries where Psa-V exists.

The KVH-commissioned Lincoln University Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit report into the impact of Psa-V on the kiwifruit industry and wider community, revealed industry-wide costs of up to \$885 million in the next 15 years, not taking into account equity losses.

Effective management of Psa-V across the large number and variety of organisations in the industry requires a consistent and coordinated approach at national, regional and grower levels. Without this, the effects of Psa-V would prove extremely difficult, if not impossible, to manage.

In order to manage the spread and impacts of Psa-V, there are now rules governing disease management, monitoring, movement and the development of plans. Achieving compliance through voluntary means will remain the primary focus when implementing this plan, but the ability to enforce requirements in significant situations of non-compliance will ensure the most effective management of the disease.

The basis of the NPMP is a collective grower and industry commitment to ensure one grower's hard work to keep their orchard clean is not undone by a neighbour's indifference and inaction.

WHAT DOES THE PLAN MEAN FOR ME?

Psa-V does not affect all orchards in the same way, and the impact of Psa-V also differs across regions. To ensure the best disease management approach is taken in each region, the plan identifies specific objectives for three different categories of region ('Exclusion Region', 'Containment Region' and 'Recovery Region').

You can confirm which region you are in, and establish the status of the region you need to go to, through or from, on the maps and regional information page of the KVH website www.kvh.org.nz/maps_regional.

EXCLUSION and CONTAINMENT REGIONS

If you are in an exclusion region, the focus is on keeping Psa-V out and being prepared should it arrive. If you are in a containment region, the focus is on containing the disease. Achieving these offers significant benefits, including buying time for orchardists to establish new, more tolerant varieties in an environment free of Psa-V, while benefitting from the latest R&D and experience.

RECOVERY REGIONS

Growers have collectively invested around \$150 million in the establishment of new varieties since the collapse of Hort16A due to Psa-V. New varieties are not a silver bullet for the industry, although they do appear to offer a profitable return if disease can be managed. This is also the case with Hayward.

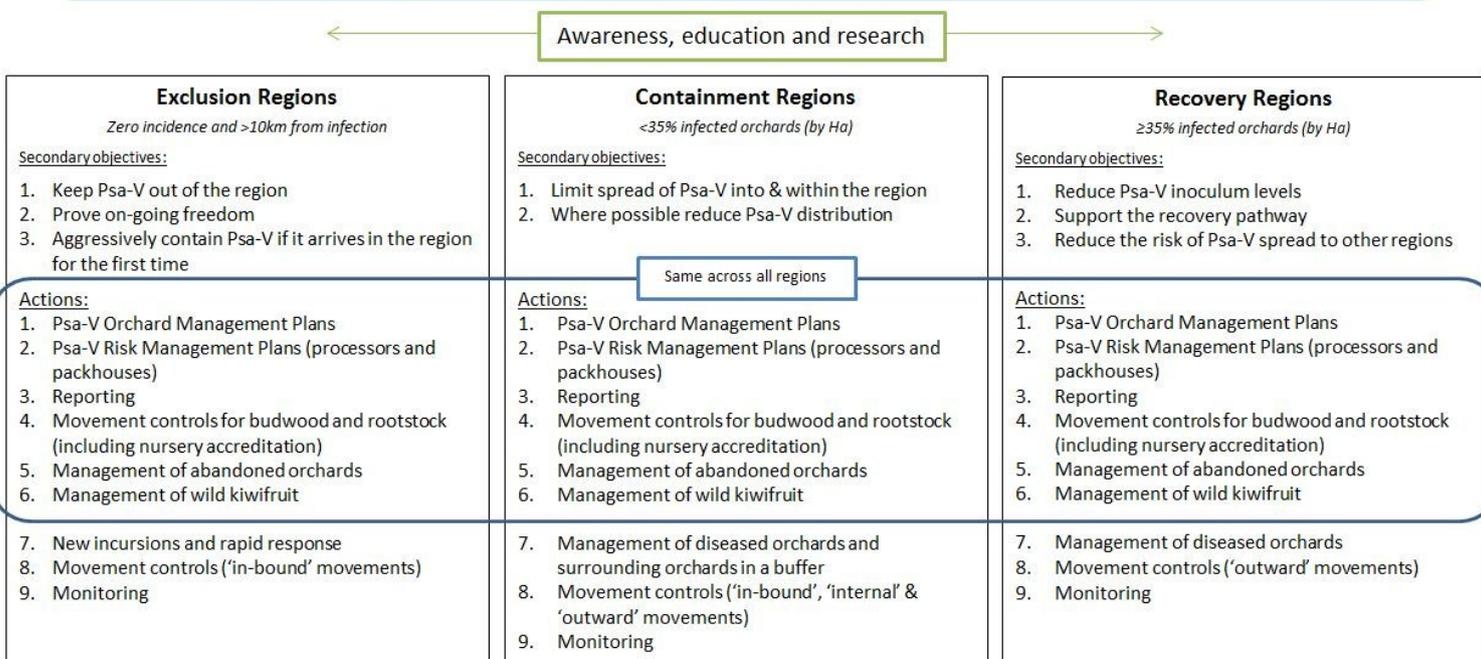
The kiwifruit industry's recovery from Psa-V is reliant on a collective commitment from growers. The three key areas of focus are:

- Uptake of more tolerant varieties;
- Orchard and vine disease management, including an effective spray programme;
- Reducing Psa-V inoculum in the region.

Most growers will naturally strive to fulfil those obligations – to secure their own investment and the future of the industry. This was reflected in the high grower vote in favour of establishing the NPMP. The NPMP has been established for growers, and is being paid for by growers.

You may be familiar with the following chart (known as the ‘one-page plan’). Please take a look to see a summary of which actions apply to you.

Primary objective: Prevent the spread of Psa-V and minimise its impact on commercial kiwifruit



KEY OBJECTIVES

To achieve the plan’s objectives we need to:

- carry out monitoring, which will be set each year and communicated to growers;
- reduce inoculum, by cleaning up diseased and abandoned orchards, and wild kiwifruit populations;
- control movement of risk items, including kiwifruit plant material, and orchard equipment;
- implement best-practice orchard management, by considering R&D, on-orchard experience and grower innovation; and,
- establish preparedness and response systems, in order to act if Psa-V is detected in an 'exclusion zone'.

Key relationships in Psa-V management



HOW THE PLAN WORKS

The primary focus of the NPMP is voluntary compliance. However, KVH will take action where breaches of the plan create a significant risk to others.

The plan outlines seven rules which are necessary to ensure the objectives of the plan are achieved. Rules such as these are a requirement for a NPMP of this type under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

You are strongly advised to refer to the sections of the complete NPMP document on the KVH website. There, you will be able to read each rule in full, as well as explanatory notes.

A summary of each rule is provided below.

Rule #1: Every landowner or occupier responsible for management of a kiwifruit orchard shall have, and operate in accordance with, a Psa-V Orchard Management Plan. The most prominent item on all grower action lists will be the establishment of a Psa-V Orchard Management Plan. These are mandatory, and must be in place by 1 August 2013. Templates, examples and model plans you can use are available on the KVH website, and you can request assistance from postharvest operators. For growers, if your plan is in place and is being implemented, you can rest assured you are meeting the requirements of the NPMP.

Rule #2: Every post-harvest operator and processor shall have, and operate in accordance with, a Psa-V Risk Management Plan. The most prominent item on a processor or packhouse action list will be the establishment of a Psa-V Risk Management Plan. Again, these are mandatory and must be completed by 1 August 2013.

Rule #3: Every person who recognises the symptoms, or potential symptoms, of Psa-V on an orchard for the first time, must report these to KVH within 48 hours. Early detection is critical to enable rapid response in an exclusion or containment region.

Rule #4: Every person must provide KVH with information it reasonably believes is necessary to monitor the distribution of Psa-V, to monitor the level of Psa-V present, or to trace movements of risk items. Understanding the disease status of orchards and how Psa-V may have spread, are fundamental to understanding the best approach to management of Psa-V at national, regional and local levels.

Rule #5: Every landowner or occupier responsible for management of a kiwifruit orchard must have an effective crop protection programme in place. This rule requires application of at least one crop protection product from a register of KVH-approved products. Details of this approach are to be included in the Psa-V Orchard Management Plan.

Rule #6: Every landowner or occupier responsible for management of a kiwifruit orchard must not allow their orchard to create a significant infection risk to adjacent or nearby orchards, or to adjacent or nearby containment regions or exclusion regions. They must also ensure the disease situation is not significant and deteriorating, and must regularly reduce the amount of diseased material. Details of this approach are to be included in the Psa-V Orchard Management Plan.

Rule #7: Every landowner or occupier responsible for management of a kiwifruit orchard must ensure that kiwifruit vines are winter pruned and tied by 1 October each year and that the majority of commercially-viable kiwifruit is harvested by 1 July each year. This rule is to address abandoned orchards which are potential reservoirs of Psa-V. As these are unlikely to receive any form of crop protection, they are high risk sites for potential establishment and spread of Psa-V within a region.

Movement controls are a key aspect of the plan, and are mandatory. Complying with movement controls will be the most prominent aspect of the NPMP for most associated industries, such as nurseries, and beekeepers. You need to familiarise yourself with the movement controls that apply to your situation.

In general terms, the highest risk and strictest controls will apply to movement of plant material. The objective with movement controls is to keep exclusion zones free of Psa-V, limit the spread in containment zones and stop Psa-V spreading from recovery zones. Please refer to the KVH website for full details of which movement controls apply in your situation.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Implementation of the plan will take place at three levels. At the orchard level, growers, assisted by postharvest technical staff and other industry participants will be responsible for actions such as monitoring, orchard and vine disease management.

At a regional level, KVH will work in partnership with its regional coordinators and committees.

Nationally, KVH will provide leadership, working closely with industry leaders such as Zespri, NZKGI and postharvest to minimise the impact of Psa-V.



The NPMP will ensure orchardists do not create significant risks to others such as with abandoned vines.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In terms of the latest research and development (R&D), KVH works in partnership with Zespri Innovation on a global R&D programme focused on Psa-V. The programme enlists scientific minds globally to provide the best available expertise to the New Zealand kiwifruit industry. Latest R&D information is located on the KVH website at www.kvh.org.nz/research_development.

LEGAL STATUS

Note that the NPMP, and the grower levy to fund its implementation, are formally approved by the making of two Orders in Council. These are the legal documents which give KVH, the management agency, the objectives, measures, rules and powers that enable it to lead the kiwifruit industry recovery from the impacts of Psa-V. They also allow KVH to levy growers to provide the funding for the Plan. The Orders reflect content of the final amended NPMP document which this report summarises. All documents are available on the KVH website at www.kvh.org.nz/NPMP.

* FOOTNOTE:

This document is intended as a brief summary of some of the content within the NPMP. Please read the full NPMP document, which is available on the KHV website, to learn exactly how the plan affects you. Failure to read and understand the full document will not in any way excuse any party from a failure to act in accordance with the rules and/or controls of the plan. While the primary focus of the NPMP is voluntary compliance, any breach of rules could constitute an offence under the Biosecurity Act 1993.