

## Biosecurity Advice - Update

### Pest

Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) (*Halyomorpha halys*)

### Date

Feb 2019

### Location

QLD, WA and Victoria

### Key points

- The Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is an exotic pest that could cause major damage to agricultural crops, nursery stock and ornamental plants. It's also a nuisance because it seeks shelter in large numbers, in buildings and equipment during the winter months. It has a foul-smelling odour when crushed or disturbed.
- This bug is a high priority pest which needs to be kept out of Australia. It is well known to stow away in cargo coming out of the northern hemisphere between September and April each year.

### Current Situation

- There has been a significant number of BMSB detected at the border and post-border this season, which runs from September through to April.
- Post-border detections are where the pest has made its way to Australia and has been found at a location which is not under biosecurity control. Seven post-border detections have been referred to state governments under nationally agreed response arrangements.
- The seven detections have occurred across Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia on a variety of imported cargo. Both live and dead bugs have been found.
- The Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is working closely with each of the affected state governments. Each detection has seen swift and effective response measures put in place.
- The affected goods are subject to biosecurity control and fumigation, and surveillance is now underway to determine that these bugs have been contained.

### Queensland

- In Queensland there have been three separate detections at Lytton, New Chum and Fisherman's Island. BMSB was detected on a variety of imported cargo including machinery that had been imported from China.
- A residual treatment was applied to the fruiting vegetation at each site.
- A 12-week surveillance and trapping program is in place across all three sites. So far, no further BMSB have been found.

### Fremantle Port, Western Australia

- On 28 December 2018, a single live BMSB was found in a trap at Fremantle Port. This trap was one of seven, set as part of BMSB surveillance activities which are conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

- A residual treatment has been applied to a 100 metre buffer zone which includes buildings and vegetation.
- The WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has a 12-week trapping program underway to determine whether the pest has spread. A total of 49 traps have now been deployed with no further detections to date.
- Businesses and residents in North Fremantle should keep an eye out for BMSB. DPIRD has provided information to the public on what to look for, and how to report any suspect sightings.

## Victoria

- Agriculture Victoria is responding to BMSB detections at three sites in Victoria. One in Dandenong South, one at Port Melbourne and the other at Clayton.
- In early January 2019, a Dandenong South warehouse reported sightings of unusual bugs on imported goods from Italy. A single live BMSB was found in a warehouse, and is likely to have arrived inside a consignment of terracotta pots. BMSB was confirmed by diagnostic testing on 8 January.
- The warehouse and goods were fumigated by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on 12-13 January, when another live BMSB was detected. On 14 January, Agriculture Victoria found a further live adult male in a trap they had set, approximately 20 metres from the warehouse. Another live adult female was found in a trap just outside the warehouse on 18 January.
- As a precaution, retailers and nursery owners in Victoria who have purchased or received the terracotta pots that were made in Italy, will be issued with a BMSB trap and information that will help them identify and report any suspect bugs.
- Back in December 2018, a single male BMSB was detected on a mini-bulldozer at a dealership in Clayton, Victoria.
- On 14 December 2018, another single BMSB was detected near the dealership, in a trap set by Agriculture Victoria.
- There have been no further detections at the Clayton site, although surveillance activities will continue.
- Due to the detection at Clayton and the bulldozer's transport route, additional traps were installed at Web Dock and Port Melbourne.
- In late January 2019, Agriculture Victoria detected a single live male BMSB in one of its traps at Port Melbourne, which was set along the bulldozer's transport route. The trap was in an olive tree in a public space. There are now 40 traps in place around the Port Melbourne site.
- Agriculture Victoria puts a 12-week trapping and surveillance program in place, in a two-kilometre radius around each site where BMSB is detected.
- Traps are in place around the areas of Dandenong South, Port Melbourne and Clayton.

## About the Pest

Pest specific detail about BMSB is available on the industry Pest ID Tool available at <https://www.pestid.com.au/>.

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