

SPRING 2020

BIOSECURITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020



Tomato red spider mite – Auckland 2020

Tomato Red Spider Mite (*Tetranychus evansii*) was detected at a site near Auckland Airport in May 2020. Another site is also confirmed 20km away.

The mite was found on black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) during routine surveillance. It is not known exactly how it arrived in New Zealand.



Photo credit: HortiDaily

This species is a pest of tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant, as well as roses and other species.

It makes silk webbing to protect itself and its eggs like some spiders do. In sufficient numbers, mites can mummify plants, completely wrapping them up in webbing and feeding on the plant until it dies.

There are a few red mite species in New Zealand already. Identification requires an expert (acarologist). Lots of webbing is the most obvious sign that the tomato red spider mite is present.

More information can be found on MPI's website: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/tomato-red-spider-mite>

If you live in Auckland and think you have seen this mite, call the pest and disease hotline 0800 80 99 66.



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is a shield-shaped insect about the size of a \$1 coin with distinctive black and white banding on the abdomen and the antennae.



Photo credit: Ministry for Primary Industries

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE DETECTED A BMSB:



Catch it



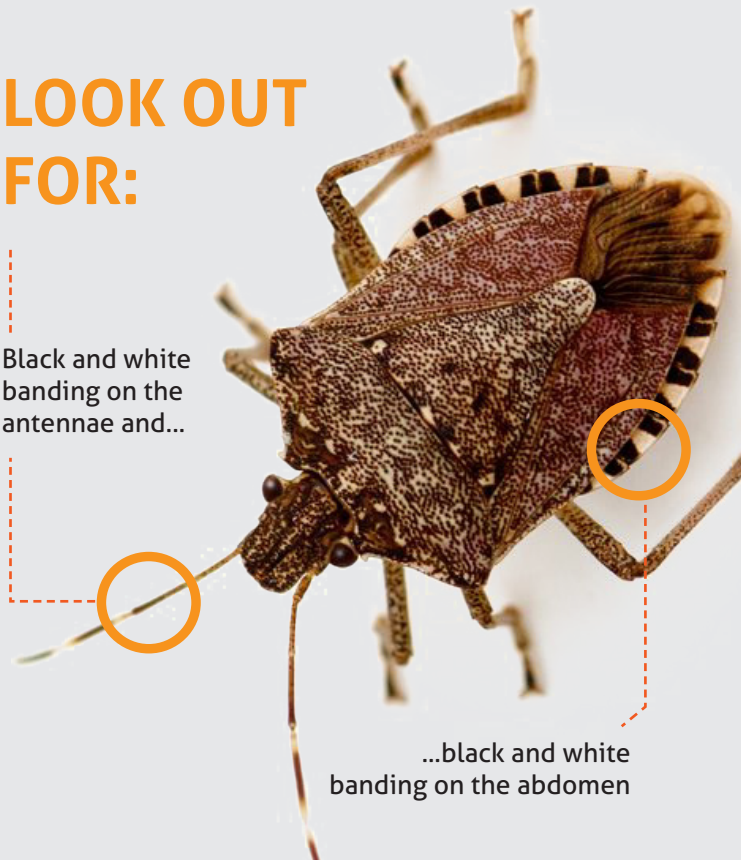
Photograph it



Report it
Call the Biosecurity
New Zealand hotline
on 0800 80 99 66

LOOK OUT FOR:

Black and white banding on the antennae and...



...black and white banding on the abdomen

Visit the [BMSB web page](#) for more information.

Brown marmorated stink bugs spread fast, so we'll need to act quickly to get rid of them if they arrive. That can only happen if we spot an invasion as soon as possible. MPI is encouraging all New Zealanders to be on the lookout.



City horticulturists and gardeners have been asked to keep watch because bugs that come through airports or seaports would attack their crops first.



Travellers are reminded to check their luggage on return to New Zealand to make sure they haven't brought the bug with them.



People importing goods from overseas – including internet shoppers – are also encouraged to check their packages.



Photo credit: Alistair McTaggart, DAF

Monstera rust

A new rust species affecting the popular houseplant *Monstera deliciosa* was detected in New Zealand in July 2020. The rust – *Puccinia paullula* – affects *Monstera* foliage, causing circular pale yellow leaf spots up to 1.5mm diameter.

Other hosts may be affected, including *Epipremnum* and other members of the aroid family.

The fungus originates from Asia and is also present in Australia. No specific fungicide controls are proven to be completely efficacious.



National Pest Plant Accord

The propagation and sale of banned plants has the potential to damage our industry's reputation.

Council inspectors regularly find plants banned under the National Pest Plant Accord in plant nurseries and retail outlets. Multiple reports of people selling NPPA-listed plants through Facebook Market Place and Trade Me are also reported by members of the public.

In conjunction with Biosecurity New Zealand and Auckland Council, NZPPI has made a limited run of posters showing some of the most commonly traded plants banned under the NPPA. We are giving away free copies to garden retailers and plant producers to display in staff and smoko rooms as a reminder to check the NPPA, as well as plants banned under Regional Pest Management Plans. Please email us at office@nzppi.co.nz if you would like a copy.

IF YOU SEE THESE SYMPTOMS ON *MONSTERA*:



Take a photo



Phone the pest and diseases hotline 0800 80 99 66



Photo credit: NZ Forest Owners' Association

Eucalyptus variegated beetle

The Eucalyptus variegated beetle (*Paropsisterna variicollis*) is an Australian leaf beetle. Its larvae feed on the leaves of eucalyptus trees and can cause significant damage.

It was found in Hawkes Bay in March 2016 and has been detected on *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *E. globulus*, *E. obliqua* and *E. regnans* across the Hawkes Bay region.

MPI is interested in receiving any reported sightings.



Photo credit: Biosecurity New Zealand

Eggs are a pale-yellow colour and laid in batches on young eucalypt foliage.



Photo credit: Biosecurity New Zealand

Fully-grown larvae look like small, yellow caterpillars with an obvious dark line down the middle of their backs. They have dark-coloured heads and dark colouring at the back end on their undersides. They often feed in groups.

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE SEEN ONE OF THESE BEETLES, THEIR LARVAE OR ANY EGGS:



Catch them



Call us on
0800 80 99 66

Adult beetles are:

- 8mm to 10mm long
- oval-shaped
- vary in colour from a pale brownish-yellow to orange-brown
- black or very dark-coloured underneath with pale patches at the bases of their legs

Photo credit: Ministry for Primary Industries




Granulate Ambrosia Beetle

The granulate ambrosia beetle (*Xylosandrus crassiusculus*) was detected in Auckland in February 2019.

The granulate ambrosia beetle is regarded as a serious pest overseas. It is known to damage a wide range of broadleaf trees, including horticultural species.

Extensive ground surveys across the Auckland region have found the beetle in native and exotic tree species in 7 areas within Auckland.



It has not been detected outside the Auckland region.

No further detections have been made in 2020 but MPI are asking people to keep an eye out. A tell-tale sign of the beetle is distinctive protrusions of frass (compacted sawdust) that look like toothpicks coming out of the tree bark. They are caused by the beetles pushing frass out of tunnels bored into the trees. Other symptoms include sap oozing from the tunnel entrances and branch dieback.



IF YOU SEE THE BEETLE OR ANY SIGN OF FRASS ON TREES:



Take a photo



Phone the pest and diseases hotline
0800 80 99 66

Photo credit: Ministry for Primary Industries