

Pest of the Month

Ambrosia Beetle

Ambrosia beetles are 2.1 mm to 2.9 mm in length, native to East Asia and reside under bark which makes them difficult to detect. Adult males are wingless, females are winged and bore tunnels and introduce a fungus as food for itself and their larvae. Females push the frass out of the tunnels leaving a distinctive toothpick like structure.

Harm to New Zealand

They cause wilting, weaken branches, and kill living trees. They damage stored timber by mass colonization of the dead wood. Hardwoods are the preferred hosts, like oak, but it can attack ornamental and fruit trees, e.g. avocado, plum and peach. A new non-native fungus could be introduced into NZ by these pests.

NZ Government Monitoring

It has been detected in native NZ broadleaf species but is not considered a threat to conifers, e.g. pinus species. MPI is carrying out widespread inspections and has begun trapping programmes and will direct felling of infected trees.

Look Out For

Frass or sawdust protrusions from bark that look like toothpicks or sap oozing from tunnel entrances and branch dieback.

More Information

For more information, go to MPI website to search the Pest and Disease list.



See, Contain, Report

If there is a possible sighting, call Airport Operations on 09 256 8813 or MPI on 09 909 8615 immediately

Pest of the Month

Mosquitos (Local)

Mosquito is Spanish for 'little fly'. Females live for 42-56 days & males 10 days. Only female mosquitos bite and are attracted to sweat, body heat and CO₂ from our breath. Eggs can hatch in as little as an inch of standing water. Females will lay eggs up to three times before they die. Mosquitos can't fly very far or very fast, which is lucky for us as it will help us contain and/or eradicate this hitch-hiker.

Harm to People

Mosquitos are considered the deadliest 'animal' in the world. They kill around one million people per year, mostly in Africa. Mosquitos can transmit diseases like the Zika and Ross River virus. Zika virus can cause birth defects. Malaria can also be transmitted by a parasite that lives in some mosquito species.

NZ Government Monitoring

Auckland Public Health consider mosquitos a serious risk and have a year-round monitoring programme with traps at Auckland Airport. The Ministry of Health also pays close attention to the mosquito surveillance programme at Auckland Airport to ensure a good system is in place to keep exotic mosquitos out of New Zealand.

Look Out

For pooling water, or items which may collect water, such as plastic barriers with holes. Tip out pooled water, upend containers and close holes in barriers. Report any sightings of mosquitos to MPI.



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Pest of the Month

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

The BMSB is an invasive insect and a prolific breed. They emit a pungent odour when squashed. Due to its sheer volume and the ability to travel great distances, a huge area can be affected very quickly. BMSB cannot be easily treated with insecticides, making them hard to remove.

Harm to Environment

The BMSB can cause great damage to crops. They feed heavily on over 20 plant species. They cause deforming surfaces and rotting underneath of fruits, vegetables and crops which become unsellable.

Harm to People

Over winter, the BMSB infest homes where they are unsightly and smelly. They are also a pest in domestic gardens.

Harm of Economy

A serious infestation can cause \$1.8 to \$3.6 billion reduction in GDP, consisting of \$2 to \$4.2 billion reduction in horticulture exports*.

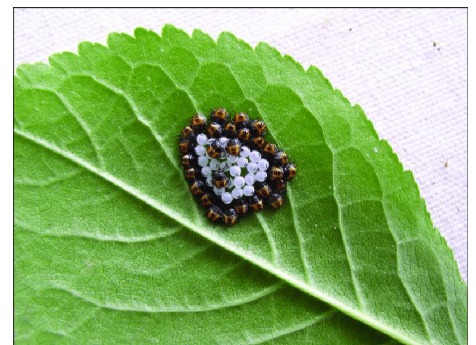
Look Out

For BMSBs in ULD containers, the container park, cargo, breezeway, baggage hall and passengers' luggage.

More Information

For more information, search the "MPI BMSB Fact Sheet" and several videos available on YouTube.

*Reference: NZIER



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Pest of the Month

Red Imported Fire Ants

Red Imported Fire Ants vary in size from 2mm to 10mm long and make mounded nests 40-46cm wide, which look like soil. They are aggressive, unlike NZ native ants. They will swarm towards anyone or anything that disturbs their nest. They move fast!

Harm to Environment and Animals

Fire Ants can undermine buildings and paths. They can prey on and compete for food with birds, lizards, small mammals and insects.

Harm to People

Fire Ants deliver a painful sting. Some people can have allergic reactions and can even die. They could spell the end to outdoor BBQs, backyard cricket and outside pets.

Harm to Economy

Fire Ants can make harvesting crops and grazing animals impossible. In some countries, people have had to abandon farms and orchards. They can eat seeds, fruit and young shoots and roots of plants. They could jeopardise New Zealand animal and horticulture exports.

Look Out

For small red ants in produce, vehicles, shipping containers, machinery or any crevice, e.g. concrete joins.



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