



PineNet Newsletter

The newsletter for biosecurity readiness and response teams in the forestry sector

Issues number 1/2016 (20 September 2016)

The FOA Forest Biosecurity Committee welcomes you to the first issue of the PineNet newsletter. This newsletter is designed to keep us all connected and aware of any important changes or events in the biosecurity area. We plan to send this newsletter on a quarterly basis.

We welcome your feedback and any thoughts on other topics of interest to include in upcoming newsletters.

The purpose and role of PineNet

PineNet has been developed to act as a ready response and contact network for biosecurity, and is based on Wood Council members in each region. Where there is no Wood Council in an area, FOA will draw on NZIF branches.

The objectives of PineNet are to maintain:

- A network of key personnel and resources that can be rapidly accessed in the event of a biosecurity response.
- A communication network to enable the Forest Biosecurity Committee (FBC) to keep regions up-to-date on biosecurity matters.
- A network of informally and formally trained personnel who can provide passive biosecurity surveillance and inform FOA should they detect unusual forest health symptoms or organisms.

A PineNet folder has been created on the FOA website and will serve as a way to provide general information to members. <http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/resources/file-libraries-resources/forest-health/pinenet>

What is the new Forest Biosecurity Surveillance (FBS) system?

The new system takes into account the changes required to the system once the FOA signed the Government Industry Agreement (GIA). It also incorporates changes driven by the introduction of the commodity levy in 2014. While the system has the same objectives (to protect forests, facilitate safe trade, and increase investor confidence), a number of key changes have taken place. The new FBS will provide surveillance coverage to all plantation forests in New Zealand, not just FOA member forests. It uses new data and new statistical methods to provide greater risk-based coverage. This means that higher risk areas will receive greater on-the-ground surveillance than lower risk, generally more remote, forest areas. New incursions, or any other concerns, will be immediately reported to FOA, but the previous forest reports will only be provided based on specific arrangements with the Forest Health Providers contracted to conduct the FBS.

For more information visit the NZFOA website to download a recent presentation from July 2016 that explains the changes in more detail. <http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/resources/file-libraries-resources/forest-health/pinenet/588-pinenetpresentation/file>

Update on the Eucalyptus Variegated Beetle (EVB) *Paropsisterna variicollis* incursion

Paropsisterna variicollis is an introduced pest leaf beetle. Even though it is not known to be a major pest in commercial Eucalyptus plantations in its native Australia, the beetles can cause significant damage to several Eucalyptus species. It was first detected in New Zealand at Te Pohue in Hawke's Bay in March 2016.

The beetle attacks a number of species of eucalyptus. Adults are about 8 to 10mm long and vary in colour from pale brownish to orange brown.



A response has been launched by MPI with Peter Berg (FFA) representing forest industry interests on the governance team. While the insect has spread from its original site, MPI and FOA/FFA are hopeful that steps being put in place to manage the incursion, once the beetle appears from dormancy in spring, will control the spread of the insect. More information about the beetle is available on the FOA website.

<http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/resources/file-libraries-resources/forest-health/pinenet/589-eucalyptus-variegated-beetle-paropsisterna-variicollis/file>

For further information or questions, please contact Bill Dyck on 0274 742 161 billdyck@xtra.co.nz or Venise Comfort on 027 530 4443 venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz