



PineNet Newsletter

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

Issue number 4/28 August 2017

This issue covers the updates on myrtle rust, the recent MPI/FOA/Scion fact-finding visit to British Columbia, and the Forest Biosecurity Committee's last meeting.

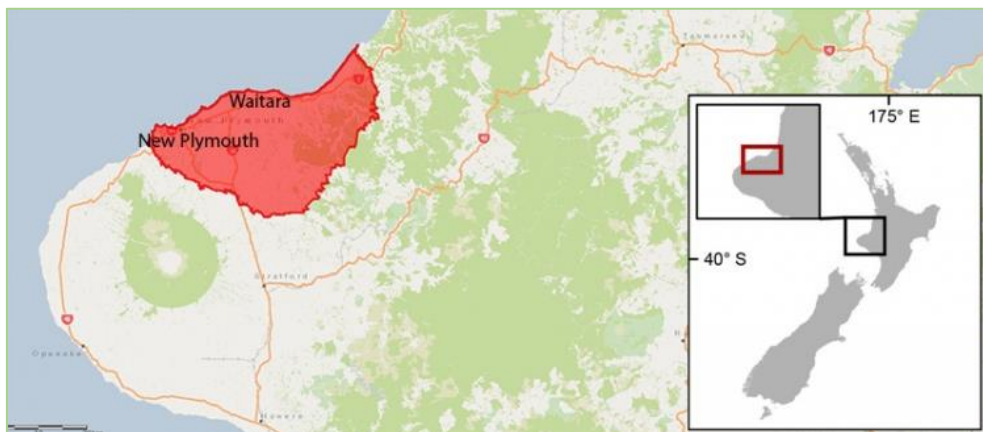
What is happening with the myrtle rust incursion?

FOA has been sending out semi-regular updates from MPI on the myrtle rust incursion. At the last update on 22 August, there are 112 confirmed sites. Most of the infections are on ramarama and pohutakawa, and in the Te Puke and New Plymouth areas. The infections are mostly on private land. A number of specimens have been received from the Heaphy track on DOC land, but no confirmed infections.

The Ministry has been providing short updates to stakeholders, but these have reduced in frequency over the winter. The governance group last met about three weeks ago, and an interim plan was put in place to wait out winter and see what happens to infection rates and location in spring. The likely outcome at springtime is to move to long-term management, but this needs to be determined once infections rise again.

MPI has placed restrictions on moving myrtles (plants and waste) out of the Controlled Area centred around Waitara. Full information on the Controlled Area is [here](#). If you would like to be added to the distribution list for MPI's myrtle rust updates please email MR2017_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz.

A map of the controlled area from the [Legal Controlled Area Notice](#). Note, there is no Controlled Area around Te Puke because the disease is not centred on nurseries as it was initially around Waitara.



The Ministry has been stretched over this incursion, with the *Bonamia ostreae* parasite infection on Stewart Island and the *Mycoplasma bovis* outbreak in South Canterbury. This highlights the difficulties both the various primary industry sectors, and the government have, with balancing resources during incursions.

What is happening to prepare for a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug incursion?

BMSB is a regulated pest of great concern to New Zealand as it could have a significant impact on our agricultural and horticultural industries. During the 2016/2017 risk period, MPI recorded 152 BMSB interceptions of both dead and live BMSB on new and used items. As a consequence, MPI has urgently updated the Import Health Standard for vehicles and machinery from Italy. More information from MPI is available on their website [here](#).

MPI is also hosting USA based BMSB expert, Dr Tracey Leskey, who will speak in Te Puke on Monday 28 August. Information from KVH is available in their latest [Bulletin](#).

How do Canadian officials gain social licence to operate when spraying for gypsy moth?

FOA, MPI, and Scion officials travelled to British Columbia (BC) in May this year to find out how BC officials gain and maintain social licence to operate. The provincial government have an aerial and ground spray programme for gypsy moth, using BtK that is rolled out depending on reaching certain levels of trapped adult moths.

The answer to how to gain social licence is not an easy one – there are a number of factors that feed in to success. These include the right legislative framework, one that prevents any appeals against the spray programme on human health grounds.

Two other factors aiding success relate to funding and ensuring high levels of community engagement and outreach. The BC officials commit 30% of the spray programme budget to community outreach activities. These include traditional notices and communications to residents, but more effectively, they use face-to-face methods to convey the benefits and assure residents of the safety of the spray chemical itself.

Officials make themselves personally available to answer residents' concerns, and they have a number of 'door-knockers' who call on each home before and after each of the ground spray days (three sprays, each 7 to 10 days apart). In this way, residents have access to the people directly associated with the spray programme, and can directly get their questions and concerns answered.

This approach has helped the spray programme run smoothly for a number of years, and officials have learned lessons from past experiences which they were happy to pass on to the New Zealand delegation. The trip provided FOA, MPI and Scion with rich information on both social licence to operate, and research and eradication programmes undertaken in BC.

Ground spray operator in Surrey.



The joint report is [here](#) on the FOA website and the findings will be presented to MPI shortly.

What is the FOA/FFA Forest Biosecurity Committee working on?

The FBC quarterly meeting was held on 9 August. Key issues discussed are below.

- **Forest Biosecurity Surveillance (FBS) Pilot.** The pilot to evaluate and confirm the new FBS model is just starting now, as it was delayed due to capacity issues related to the myrtle rust incursion. The committee has secured funding of 50% from MPI for the pilot. Results of the pilot will be available later in 2017 and the full rollout of the new FBS will be initiated from January 2018. In the meantime surveillance is continuing using the existing Forest Health Surveillance system protocols. An ongoing issue for the committee is how to report new incursions in forest areas given sensitivities about this information from forest owners and managers. The suggestion is that reports are written at a regional level, rather than a specific forest level. Forest managers can still make separate arrangements with Forest Health Providers for forest-specific reports.
- **Biosecurity Workshop 2018 – March 14 and 15.** The committee is working on developing the topic and format and for the next joint MPI/FOA workshop. The themes are likely to centre around new initiatives and social licence to operate.
- **Biosecurity Levy.** This is the recommended mechanism to fund FOA's share of incursion response costs under GIA. The committee discussed FOA progress on this and how best to communicate the benefits of the levy to the wider forestry sector.
- **GIA Operational Agreement.** The committee received an update from FOA on progress of the single sector OA being drafted between forestry and MPI. This is progressing well, with fiscal caps and cost-sharing percentages largely agreed. A number of issues are still to be resolved, such as liability, health and safety responsibilities, compensation cost-shares, and the sector's ability to progress an eradication programme if MPI does not agree to this course of action or fails to respond with urgency.

Where do forest nurseries fit in?

A number of strands of work involve forest nurseries. They will be individually consulted on the proposed Biosecurity Levy, and FOA staff will visit them. The aim is to gather feedback on the proposal (not yet released) and to provide a forum for consultation. FOA staff are also working with forest nurseries to bring them into the GIA partnership.

Where can I access PineNet resources?

A [PineNet folder](#) has been created on the FOA website and will serve as a way to provide general information to members. You will find all the previous newsletters there too.

Please share this newsletter with others in your network or wood council.

For further information or questions, please contact Venise Comfort on 027 530 4443 or email on venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz