

BIOSECURITY RESPONSE GUIDE FOR INDUSTRY & GROWERS

EXOTIC LEPIDOPTERA



Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
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Biosecurity Response Guide For Industry and Growers - Exotic Lepidoptera, published May 2026 by the GIA Lepidoptera Working Group.

DISCLAIMER

The information in this document is intended to be general information. It is not intended to take the place of, or to represent, the written law of New Zealand or other official guidelines or requirements. While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this document is accurate, the Lepidoptera Working Group (comprised of MPI and industry GIA partner representatives), including any of their employees or agents involved in the drafting of this Guide, does not accept any responsibility or liability for any error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion which may be present, nor for the consequences of any decisions or actions based on this information.

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This Guide is aimed at primary producers within the plant sector and explains what may happen in a biosecurity response, and how your business operations may be affected if a new exotic Lepidoptera species is detected in New Zealand.

The Guide outlines the stages of a biosecurity response and the potential actions undertaken by Biosecurity New Zealand, the business unit within the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) responsible for preparing for and responding to biosecurity incursions. It explains what happens if your property is within a response zone, and how you may be able to claim compensation for losses caused by response actions.

For information about how a response is governed under the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) partnership, a separate GIA Response Guide is available from the GIA website: [GIA Response Guide](#).

BACKGROUND

Lepidoptera consisting of butterflies and moths is one of the world's most diverse insect orders. These insects are important pollinators in natural ecosystems and an integral part of the natural food chain, however their larvae, commonly known as caterpillars, can be very problematic to managed crops.

New Zealand has approximately 2,000 different native Lepidoptera, most of which are endemic moths that are ecologically important in our natural ecosystems. However, there are many serious lepidopteran pests, such as spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) and painted apple moth (*Teia anartoides*), not established here that present significant biosecurity risks to native trees and to the horticulture, viticulture, agriculture, pasture, cropping, and forestry sectors. Such pests may also impact human health and well-being, urban vegetation and public conservation lands. Should these pests establish, estimates of the annual cost of living with some species runs into the \$100s of millions, in addition to significant environmental, social and cultural impacts.



Fall army worm, an invasive moth species which arrived in New Zealand in 2022.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.

While New Zealand has successfully eradicated several Lepidoptera through often long, complex and expensive responses, it is important that we are vigilant and encourage industry and the public to report anything suspected of being a new to New Zealand pest to MPI.

HOW IS NEW ZEALAND PREPARED?

New Zealand has a robust biosecurity system designed to prevent the entry and establishment of exotic organisms. Our preparedness consists of a layered system that incorporates both prevention at the border and joint readiness between government and industry to respond quickly if an incursion occurs.

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARDS

The first line of defence is our strong border system, which includes Import Health Standards that set the legal requirements for goods entering New Zealand. These standards manage risks associated with imported biological goods (such as flowers, nursery stock, fresh produce) and other risk pathways, including items such as containers, machinery, vehicles and packaging that may harbour exotic pests.

BORDER ENFORCEMENT

At the border, biosecurity officers enforce these standards through inspection, treatment and clearance procedures. Risk pathways are actively monitored, and any interception of pests like exotic Lepidoptera within the country are immediately investigated.

POST-BORDER SURVEILLANCE

Since 1992, New Zealand has an ongoing national surveillance programme for spongy moth with approximately 1,500 traps strategically located on suitable host trees in high-risk areas, such as ports. Additionally, New Zealanders report thousands of suspected pests and diseases to MPI every year. This provides early warning to MPI to investigate and respond to those notifications that are valid.

ABOUT LEPIDOPTERA

UNDERSTANDING LEPIDOPTERA BIOLOGY

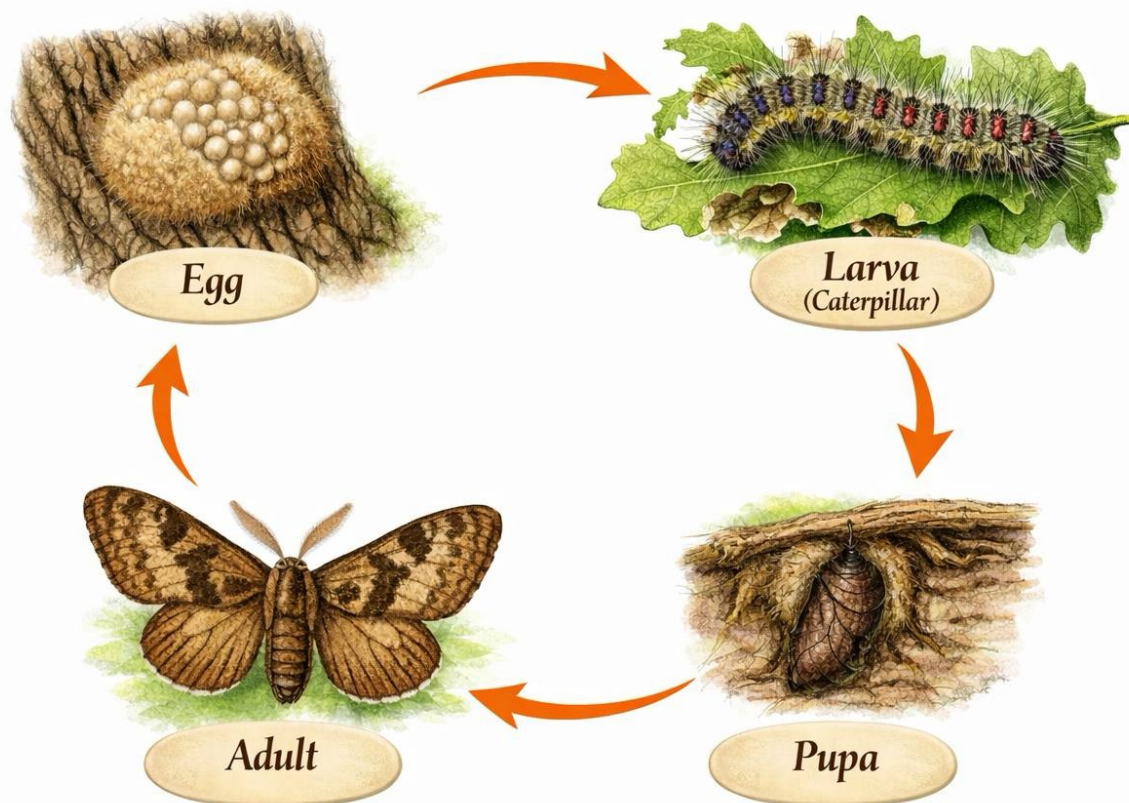
Exotic Lepidoptera can be particularly devastating because they possess a combination of biological traits that increase their invasive potential, including their ability to build large populations quickly. Many species lay hundreds of eggs, have multiple generations per year, and can be difficult to detect throughout their life cycle given their small eggs, concealed larvae and often nocturnal behaviour. Once established, populations can disperse quickly across landscapes and industries, making early detection and rapid response critical.

These risks are closely tied to the Lepidoptera life cycle, outlined below.

Despite the large variety of species, Lepidoptera have a fairly uniform life cycle.

Figure 1: Lifecycle of *Lymantria dispar* (Spongy moth)

Lymantria dispar Life Cycle



Eggs: Most Lepidoptera reproduce sexually and lay eggs. Adults lay their eggs on or near the plants on which the larvae will feed. They are sometimes laid singularly but may also be laid in large groups (termed egg masses) that may have some form of covering.

Larvae: Larvae (caterpillars) hatch from the eggs and undergo several moults to shed their exoskeleton as they grow. The caterpillar stage is the phase of the life cycle that causes the biggest impacts on host plants, as caterpillars consume large quantities of plant material to assist with growth and their structural transformation from larva to pupa to adult. Larva of different Lepidoptera species feed on different parts of plants; some feed on leaves, others on stems, stalks, roots, or fruit/seeds. Typically the larval stage lasts about 2 - 4 weeks, but this can depend on environmental conditions and in some cases be much longer (months or even years).

Pupa: The pupal stage follows the larval stage and is non-feeding, usually encased in a hard outer skin. Larval body structures are broken down while adult structures form, completing metamorphosis. The pupal stage may last weeks or months depending on the species. Adult insects emerge by splitting open the pupal case.

Adult: Most adult Lepidoptera do not live long. They tend to live only a few days; long enough to find a mate and lay their eggs. Some species remain active for longer time periods and may diapause (go into a state of reduced metabolic activity for survival) over winter before laying eggs in the spring. Some species have no mouthparts and do not feed in the adult life stage, but others do need to feed in the adult stage and some, e.g. fruit piercing moths, can cause damage to host plants.

An individual species may undergo single or multiple generations within a year. Generally, each generation is the same, but in some species the adult stage differs between generations, e.g. having winged or wingless females.

FEEDING IMPACTS OF LEPIDOPTERA ON HOST PLANTS

The behaviour of Lepidoptera is incredibly varied, and the primary food source for these insects are trees and flowering plants. However, a few groups also consume primitive plants like mosses, liverworts, ferns, lichens, fungi and dead biomass, such as litter or wood.

Collectively different species consume nearly every plant part. Nectar from flowers is consumed by many adult butterflies. Other species, like leaf roller moths feed on cones, fruits, and seeds. Household pests like the flour moth feed on stored grains and cereals. There are also caterpillar groups that feed on buds or soft succulent stems of conifers. Various groups feed on grass turf and sedges. Some caterpillars are capable of tunnelling into woody stems and rootstocks or within leaves as leaf miners. These different feeding habits are important when determining how best to control a moth incursion.



Female guava moth on fruit.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.



Caterpillar feeding damage on a leaf.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.



Painted apple moth adult female and egg mass.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.



Moth pupa.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.

GROUPING LEPIDOPTERA – PEST INJURY GUILDS

Given the huge diversity of Lepidoptera, grouping species by their feeding guild can be useful when planning for a future biosecurity response as we do not know which species may arrive next.

Lepidoptera can be grouped by the way they feed on their host plants and the type of damage they can cause. These groups are called 'Pest Injury Guilds'. An example of an exotic species from each group is shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: Lepidoptera Pest Injury Guilds

Pest Injury Guild	Impact on host plants	Exotic Species Example	Image (images are of damage-causing life-cycle stages)
Leaf mass consumers	Consumption of leaf mass	Spongy moth (<i>Lymantria dispar</i>)	 Credit: Karla Salp, Washington State Department of Agriculture
Fruit and cone borers	Bores into fruit, enabling entry of secondary pathogens	Yellow peach moth (<i>Conogethes punctiferalis</i>)	 Credit: Roboflow Universe
Leaf miners	Consumption of leaf mass, feeding occurs inside the leaf	Tomato leaf miner (<i>Phthorimaea absoluta</i>)	 Credit: Rob Jacobson – Rob Jacobson Consultancy, UK.
Stalk borers	Disrupt nutrient and water uptake and terminal growth	Pine shoot moth (<i>Rhyacionia buoliana</i>)	 Credit: Milan Zubrik, Forest Research Institute - Slovakia, Bugwood.org
Fruit piercers	Damage fruit while feeding with proboscis	Common fruit piercer (<i>Eudocima phalonia</i>)	 Credit: Todd Gilligan, Screening Aids, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org
Leaf rollers	Consumption of leaf mass	Dark fruit tree tortrix (<i>Pandemis heparana</i>)	 Credit: Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org
Stand reducers	Cut stems of young plants above soil level, defoliation	Turnip moth (<i>Agrotis segetum</i>)	 Credit: Diego Reggianti (via iNaturalist)

CONTROL OF LEPIDOPTERAN SPECIES

Many Lepidoptera species have developed effective methods to protect themselves from environmental conditions and to hide from predators. For example, some caterpillars live inside the leaves or stems of plants, some fold leaves together with silken threads, whereas others hide during the day in leaf litter and then climb at night into the canopy to feed. These strategies create challenges when attempting to eradicate an established population.

In the event an eradication response is initiated for an exotic Lepidoptera, consideration is given for what tools are available and whether they will effectively control the target pest. For example, a contact insecticide would not control a caterpillar that was feeding inside a plant. Tools vary but may include any of the following used individually or together:

- Pheromone lures for trapping, which use species-specific chemical attractants to detect, monitor and help define the spread of the pest (used for delimitation of the established area and mating disruption).
- Biopesticides (eg. *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* (Btk) which are biological products for killing larvae).
- Insecticides, which are chemical products used to control insects at particular life stages.
- Sterile insect technology, which involves releasing large numbers of sterile insects to reduce successful breeding and slow or suppress population growth.

In some cases, removal of host plants from the area of the pest incursion may be required.

When considering how to respond to the detection of a new Lepidoptera species, three key questions are considered:

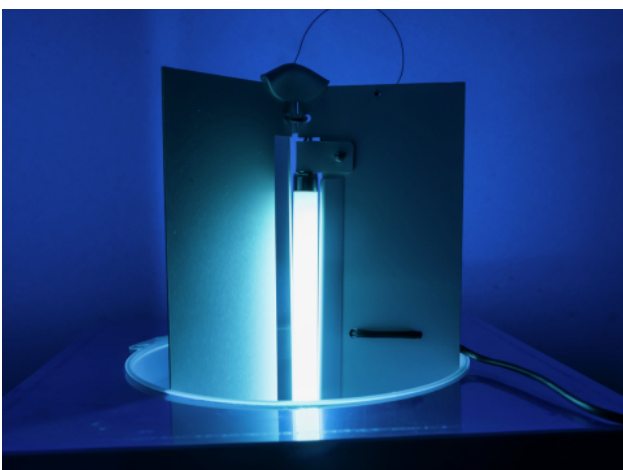
- What is the likelihood that the species will establish in New Zealand and if so, will it cause impact?
- Are pheromones and lure traps available for surveillance?
- Are effective eradication tools available?



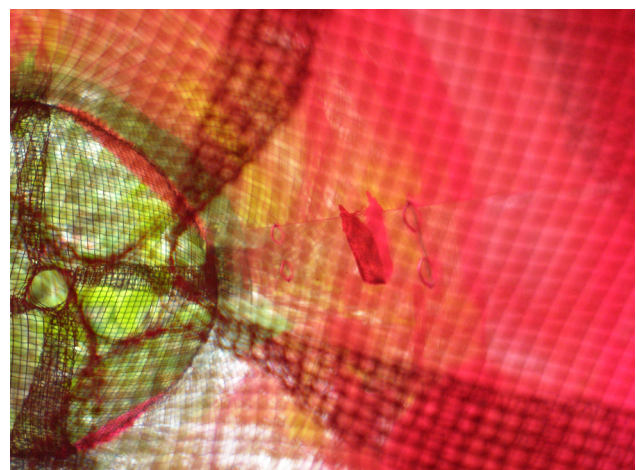
Lepidoptera sticky trap in apple orchard.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.



Lepidoptera sticky trap in apple orchard.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.



UV light trap for moth detection and monitoring.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.



A live catch moth trap.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.

WHO MANAGES A BIOSECURITY RESPONSE?

MPI AND THE BIOSECURITY ACT (1993)

MPI is the designated enforcement agency in New Zealand for biosecurity. Under the Biosecurity Act (1993) there are legal powers that can be used by MPI to manage a biosecurity response. These legal powers are exercised by issuing notices.

Biosecurity responses are managed by MPI using the Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS). CIMS is the New Zealand Government's incident management system and is used by Civil Defence, Fire and Emergency, and other national agencies to manage and respond to incidents such as natural disasters.¹

A **Response Governance group** is set up to oversee the response and set the objectives of the response, such as eradication or containment. Response Governance brings together MPI and representatives from affected industries to set the direction of the response.

Industry representatives will ensure that the interests of growers are considered in any decisions, such as the ability to continue to operate during a response.

As a partner to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, MPI has a responsibility to work in partnership with and engage appropriately with Māori (as both Iwi and Mana Whenua) of the impacted area during response and readiness activities. This includes developing a Māori engagement plan and consideration of treaty settlement commitments in the rohe of interest.

MPI's Biosecurity Response Group are MPI staff and specialist response service providers who are dispatched to the affected area, carry out field operations such as visiting affected properties in the response zone, investigating the source of the incursion, undertaking surveillance activities, erecting signage, applying treatments and other response activities. Industry can also support response operations by contributing resources and/or personnel. Contact your industry body for further information if you are interested in helping out during a biosecurity response.

¹ [NZ Civil Defence: Coordinated Incident Management System \(CIMS\), Third Edition.](#)

STAGES OF A BIOSECURITY RESPONSE

STEP 1: DETECTION AND REPORTING

Early reporting plays a crucial role in enabling a rapid biosecurity response. If something unusual (for example, a moth or butterfly you have never seen before) is found or suspected on your property, immediately call the MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline 0800 80 99 66, as soon as possible.

You can also notify MPI through the online reporting tool found here:

<https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/>

MPI will:

- Ask for your contact information, details about what you've seen/found, and property details e.g., location, size and types of trees present.
- They will ask you to take photos and catch the organism if possible. MPI will then pass the information to a technical specialist who will identify the organism.

STEP 2: INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF A SUSPECTED PEST

When a potential pest or disease is reported, MPI conducts early assessment to determine whether a formal response or investigation is warranted.

- MPI will begin work to determine how far the pest has spread.
- If needed, an MPI Incursion Investigator will visit the property as soon as possible to get more information and may issue a **Restricted Place** notice that will specify any restrictions, such as the movement of vegetation, and the area to which restrictions apply. This could happen within 24 hours depending on what has been reported and the volume of notifications received by MPI.

STEP 3: PRESENCE OF AN EXOTIC LEPIDOPTERA IS CONFIRMED

- MPI will investigate the incursion and information gathered will be used to decide if a biosecurity response will begin.
- MPI will work to contain the pest so it cannot spread while the full nature of the incursion is assessed.
- A response may be set up **within 24 to 48 hours** if the pest is confirmed.
- A **response zone** will be set up, surveillance will begin, and further suspected pests will be collected for formal identification. For Lepidoptera species, surveillance is likely to involve the use of pheromone lures and trapping.

STEP 4: DECISION TO INITIATE A BIOSECURITY RESPONSE

Under New Zealand's biosecurity system, there are three related but distinct pathways after a detection:

- No response, no formal management.
- A response, which may later transition into long-term management.
- Direct transition into long-term pest management without a response.

Once an exotic Lepidoptera is confirmed, government and industry partners consider whether a biosecurity response should be initiated. If a decision is made to respond:

- An MPI Response team is dispatched to the affected area.
- A **response Governance** group is set up to oversee the response and set the response objective. Response Governance will include at least one representative from each potentially impacted industry if that industry is a signatory to the Government Industry Agreement and wishes to be involved..
- Staff from MPI's Response team will visit affected properties. The Response team will continue to investigate the incursion and carry out surveillance of the property and surrounding area to understand the extent of the pest population.

Response objectives vary depending on the circumstances of the response. In general, the primary goal is to contain the spread of the organism, limit the damage to New Zealand's environment and economy and eradicate if feasible. If eradication is considered not feasible (for example, due to the organism having established a large population across multiple regions), other response options such as containment or slow the spread may become the focus, or the response may be transitioned into a long-term management programme (industry led).

STEP 5: MOVEMENT CONTROL

- MPI will issue a **Controlled Area Notice (CAN)** and install signage if a CAN is required. They may also issue a **Restricted Place Notice (RPN)** or **Notice of Direction (NOD)** if these are required. These are explained in more detail later in this guide.
- Movement of **risk goods** (e.g. host plant material, fruit, equipment, and tools) to and from the affected property may be stopped under direction from the MPI response team, in consultation with industry representatives. This is because these goods may carry and spread different life stages of an exotic Lepidoptera.
- Neighbouring properties will be informed if there is a biosecurity response in their area and what to do if their properties are also subject to movement restrictions.

STEP 6: ORGANISM CONTROL

Control tools may be deployed to eradicate the exotic pest in the response area. These tools will be selected to target the most susceptible life stage of the organism. Tools that could be deployed include pesticides/chemical sprays, sterile insects of the same (pest) species to reduce viable matings, pheromones for mating disruption, and biological control organisms. In some instances, control tactics could also involve removing host plants.

STEP 7: TRACING AND SURVEILLANCE

Tracing back and forwards from the affected property will occur to determine the source of the incursion and how far the exotic Lepidoptera may have spread.

Surveillance will continue and the results used to inform decisions made by Response Governance.

The extent of surveillance and monitoring required will be determined by the biology of the pest species.

STEP 8: CLOSE OF RESPONSE

A response ends when the response objectives have been met. This could be eradication or containment of the exotic Lepidoptera, or a determination that eradication is not achievable despite response efforts. Long-term pest management may be considered where ongoing management is required beyond the response period. See section 'When Does a Response End?' later in this guide for more information.

WHAT DO THE RESPONSE TERMS MEAN?

CONTROLLED AREA NOTICE (CAN)

A Controlled Area usually covers the inner and wider response zones. The radius of a Controlled Area outwards from site of detection is generally determined by the biology and spread potential of the pest or disease that has been detected. The purpose of a CAN is to control the spread and movement of risk goods within the area where a response is taking place.

The boundary of a Controlled Area is usually defined by geographic features, physical landmarks and major roads.

NOTICE OF DIRECTION (NOD)

A Notice of Direction is issued under the Biosecurity Act and allows MPI to legally direct people or businesses so that operations can still occur under certain circumstances. A NOD usually applies to a specific situation, for example, if a host crop and a non-host crop of the pest are grown on the same property, a NOD may be issued to allow the production of the non-host crop to continue. A NOD could also be issued to direct other host plants to be removed and destroyed to prevent the spread of the pest.

RESTRICTED PLACE NOTICE (RPN)

A Restricted Place Notice will be placed on an affected property where detection of an exotic organism has been confirmed. Notices will restrict the movement of risk goods on and off the property and specify any treatment of the goods that is needed, such as cleaning, decontamination and disinfection.

MOVEMENT CONTROL

The goal of movement control is to contain the exotic Lepidoptera to known infested properties or zones, and to ensure that the movement of risk goods is managed.

Growers and industry representatives will be asked for their help by limiting the movement of risk goods that may assist in spreading the exotic Lepidoptera. This could include host plant material, fruit for sale or export, machinery, vehicles, and other equipment which has been in contact with infested plant material.

RISK GOODS

Risk goods include anything related to the site of primary production. Risk goods may include plant material such as budwood, cuttings, leaves and rootstock, to vehicles, fruit, pruning equipment, people and their clothes, green waste, compost and soil.

All of these are considered risk goods as they may contain eggs, caterpillars, pupae or adult Lepidoptera. Transporting risk goods can spread a pest beyond the initial area of incursion and create a more challenging response with greater risks and impacts.

ORGANISM MANAGEMENT

Organism management refers to how an exotic organism may be controlled or managed. Organism management strategies for Lepidoptera include pheromone luring and trapping, application of pesticides to various life stages of the pest, deployment of biological control agents or sterile insects, and mating disruption.

CONTAINMENT

Containment is a response strategy that aims to contain a pest or disease in one or multiple areas, and to prevent spread into other areas of New Zealand.

PERMITS

Permits can be issued to manage the movement of risk goods such as host plant material or in some cases to allow the sale of fruit and plants (seedlings) from a Controlled Area. Permits are granted by MPI and can be useful for business continuity in the event of a biosecurity response if the associated risks are being managed sufficiently.

Host material may be subject to restrictions such as:

- (i) inspection,
- (ii) using packaging and transport systems that prevent insect entry,
- (iii) extensive labelling on bins, cartons and containers.

These conditions can be temporary to allow for containment and control during a response.

ERADICATION

Eradication is a response objective that aims to eliminate the pest population from New Zealand. Eradication, where feasible, is undertaken to prevent the need for costly long-term containment and management programmes. Where successful, eradication enables New Zealand to claim country freedom status from pests that may be of concern to trading partners.

SIGNAGE

MPI will place signs around the perimeter of the response zone at major exit and entry points to indicate any quarantine areas and restricted movements.

There may be controlled entry to affected areas and properties. Property owners and residents will be notified there is a response in the area, and of their obligation to avoid unintentionally transporting risk materials or vectors (other organisms which could spread the pest insect) out of the response zone.

REMOVAL, DESTRUCTION AND TRANSPORT OF INFESTED HOSTS AND PLANT MATERIAL

In some Lepidoptera responses, infested and/or potential host plant material such as vegetable crops, may need to be removed and disposed of. Operational response plans known as Operational Specifications are developed to assist MPI response teams with their field operations for the removal and destruction of affected host material.

Decisions on host plant removal and the preferred method of destruction are made by members of the MPI response team and the property owner. When a decision is made, there are procedures to follow to minimise the risk of the exotic Lepidoptera.

A NOD can be issued to direct destruction to prevent the spread of the exotic organism.

Precautions need to be taken to avoid spreading insects, which may include applying insecticide to all plants, including those not infested. Other host plants in the response zone may also be treated and removed. Operations will be directed by MPI.

Procedures that may be required are:

- **Host plant removal**

The affected host plants, including other host material in the affected area, are treated with insecticide to ensure that any exotic Lepidoptera that may be present are treated to prevent the possibility of their dispersal before removal and destruction.

- **Destruction**

Destruction methods may include host plant removal and chipping, incineration, burial, and stump grinding. The method that will be used depends on the circumstances and location of the affected plants.

- **Decontamination**

Items that come in contact with infested plant material or growing media/soil or are removed from the affected area will need to be decontaminated to remove soil and plant debris, or washed with hot water, then disinfected. These items include machinery used in removal and destruction, equipment and vehicles in contact with infested plant material or growing media or soil, and personal items such as gloves, clothing, footwear, and other equipment.

WHEN DOES A RESPONSE END?

Every biosecurity response is different and how long one lasts depends on the biology of the pest and how it has dispersed. Initially, the response is fast and intense as industry and MPI work to understand the distribution of the pest at the time of detection, how many individuals of the pest are present, the likely pathway into New Zealand, and if eradication is feasible.

A response will end once its objectives are achieved. In some cases, where eradication cannot be achieved and impacts are ongoing, longer-term pest management may be put in place.

The decision to end a response is based on many factors, including a scientific assessment of surveillance information and trade requirements, and the cost-benefit factors of continuing to respond. The decision is made by the Response Governance group where industry is represented.

If the exotic Lepidoptera is successfully eradicated, surveillance will continue for a period to provide confidence that it is no longer present in the response area. Some actions such as trapping may be scaled down or stopped, and movement controls adjusted to minimise inconvenience.

When a response ends, MPI removes the legislative controls, stakeholders are advised, and everyone returns to business as usual – or as normal as they can if living with the pest.



Caterpillar stage of the invasive painted apple moth.
Photo supplied by Bioeconomy Science Institute.



Adult form of grapevine pest, European grapevine moth.
Photo supplied by Todd M. Gilligan and Marc E. Epstein, bugwood.org



European grapevine moth larva damage on grape.
Photo supplied by Nigel Cattlin/Alamy Stock Photo.

WHAT DOES A RESPONSE MEAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

COMPENSATION

Compensation is a vital part of New Zealand's biosecurity response system. When an exotic organism is detected, response actions – such as the destruction of plants and produce – can have a significant financial and operational impact

Compensation is available under the [Biosecurity Act \(1993\)](#) to help reduce the financial impact of these actions.

Its purpose is to help businesses remain operational despite the disruption caused by an incursion. Compensation helps cover the costs growers incur from response measures, so they are not left to bear the burden alone.

If MPI exercises its legal powers – for example, by directing crop destruction or restricting the movement and sale of produce – growers may be eligible for compensation under [section 162A](#).

IMPORTANT:

Compensation is not payable for losses caused by the pest or disease itself, such as reduced yield or crop quality. Compensation is only available when MPI exercises its legal powers over your property or goods (e.g. by issuing a formal direction directing the destruction of your crop or restricting its movement, thus preventing its sale).

Eligibility

To be eligible for compensation, your claim must meet all the requirements under section 162A of the Biosecurity Act and each claim is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Key requirements include:

- That the loss is directly caused by MPI's exercise of powers (such as a Notice of Direction or a Restricted Place Notice).
- That the loss is verifiable and validated through the provision of supporting information. Supporting information might include:
 - a calculation of your losses and data that validates these calculations (historical sale invoices, contracts, evidence of expected pricing, dates of expected sales, harvest and yield data, evidence of expected wastage, confirmation of costs typically incurred etc).
- That you have taken all reasonable steps in the circumstances to mitigate your losses e.g., planting an alternative short-term crop, minimising expenses etc.
- That you submit your claim within 12 months of when the loss became verifiable (i.e. within 12 months from the point all supporting evidence should reasonably have been available).

If you take matters into your own hands and undertake your own actions without direction from MPI, you will not be eligible for compensation.

To find out more about compensation:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/legal/legislation-standards-and-reviews/biosecurity-legislation/biosecurity-act-compensation/>

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE ANY IMPACTS AND TO HELP THE RESPONSE?

The following actions are recommended to reduce the threat of an incursion:

- Be aware and ready for any exotic pests and diseases that may impact your business.
- Take photographs and report any suspected exotic Lepidoptera at <https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/> or call 0800 80 99 66. If the insect is associated with a plant it will help if you can identify the plant host also.
- Maintain accurate records of movements of potential risk goods, visitors, contractors and operations. These will assist MPI staff in tracing where the organism may have come from, where it may have spread and the extent of the incursion.
- Have systems in place that demonstrate good biosecurity practice. This can be achieved through biosecurity plans, existing SOPs, certification and compliance systems e.g. GlobalGAP. Many industry organisations have templates which may help you:

- [Horticulture NZ – Preparing a Farm Biosecurity Plan](#)
- [Kiwifruit Vine Health \(KVH\) - On-orchard Biosecurity Plan](#)
- [NZ Winegrowers – Vineyard Biosecurity Plan](#)
- Maintain good on-site biosecurity to reduce the spread of pests on and between properties.
- Ensure staff and contractors understand the importance of biosecurity, can identify pests, understand the risks they pose and the 0800 80 99 66 number for reporting.
- Source high quality trees from reputable nurseries. 'Plant Pass' is a plant production biosecurity scheme that supports good biosecurity practice in the nursery and its supply chain. For a list of nurseries registered with Plant Pass, go to <https://www.plantpass.org.nz/biosecurity/participatingproducers>

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Rural Support Trusts have local, rural people who know from experience that pressures can build up, especially during high stress events like biosecurity or emergency responses. Their networks and training can help with all kinds of situations and help you get through any current challenges.

Rural Support will be able to help with advice relating to health and wellbeing, financial pressure, employer and employee support, and adverse weather events.

To find your local trust, call 0800 787 254, or go to: <https://www.rural-support.org.nz/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Key Contacts For Further Information

QUERY	CONTACT	PHONE	Email	WEBSITE
Report something unusual	Biosecurity NZ Exotic Pest and Disease hotline	0800 80 99 66	info@mpi.govt.nz	https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/
Industry specific biosecurity query	Your industry organisation	Contact details should be provided by your national industry organisation. If you don't have these, search for their website or if you pay a commodity levy, contact the organisation who collects your levy for advice.		
Compensation general enquiries	MPI Compensation Team	0800 007 777	CompensationCoordinator@mpi.govt.nz	
General biosecurity query	MPI	0800 008 333	info@mpi.govt.nz	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/
Grower wellbeing	Rural Support Trust	0800 787 254		https://www.rural-support.org.nz/
Income Assistance	Work and Income	0800 559 009		https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/

RESOURCES, REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Compensation:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/legal/legislation-standards-and-reviews/biosecurity-legislation/biosecurity-act-compensation/>

Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS):

<https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/resources/coordinated-incident-management-system-cims-third-edition>

Government Industry Agreement (GIA) Response Guide:

[GIA Response Guide.pdf](#)

Nurseries registered with Plant Pass:

<https://www.plantpass.org.nz/biosecurity/participatingproducers>

Lepidoptera Grouping for Readiness and Response – Final Report

Prepared by Bill Dyck for the GIA Lepidoptera Working Group

Available by request to the GIA Lepidoptera Working Group (secretariat@gia.org.nz)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

***Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki* (Btk)** – a naturally occurring biological control agent used as a highly specific biopesticide to target and control the larvae (caterpillars) of moths and butterflies (Lepidoptera).

Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) – a business unit of MPI responsible for protecting New Zealand from biosecurity incursions and pests. BNZ manages border and compliance activities as well as preparing for and responding to any biosecurity incursions.

Controlled Area – a designated zone with specific rules to manage biosecurity risks e.g., preventing the spread of pests. A Controlled Area is declared using a Controlled Area Notice (CAN) which is issued under section 131 of the Biosecurity Act (1993).

Controlled Area Notice (CAN) – a notice that officially declare a Controlled Area.

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) – the government agency responsible for establishing and administering standards and regulations for New Zealand's primary industries.

Government Industry Agreement (GIA) – the partnership between primary industry and government to manage pests and diseases that could adversely affect New Zealand's primary industries, economy and environment.

Operational Agreement (OA) – legal documents signed by MPI and at least one other GIA Signatory. OAs provide for joint decision-making and investment between GIA Deed Signatories to achieve specific outcomes for enhanced biosecurity readiness and response.

Pesticide – any substance (natural or synthetic) used to prevent, destroy, repel, or manage pests.

Pheromone – a chemical secreted or released by an organism to elicit a reaction from another organism of the same species. Pheromones are chemical signals for mating, warnings, food trails or territory marking.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) – a collection of subject matter experts who provide independent, specialised technical advice, guidance, and insights to an organisation, government body or project.

REPORT THE UNUSUAL

CATCH IT. SNAP IT. REPORT IT.

Call the Biosecurity New Zealand pest and disease hotline 0800 80 99 66

