

Report to Forest Biosecurity Consultative Committee

Update on Current Biosecurity New Zealand Forest-related Surveillance and Incursion Response Activities for meeting 6 July 2006

PAINTED APPLE MOTH and FALL WEBWORM, AUCKLAND (Eradication)

- PAM and Fall Webworm were declared eradicated on 20 March 2006.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE, AUCKLAND (Disease Management programme)

- In 2005/06, BNZ and the programme co-funders are implementing the Dutch elm disease management programme with the aim to (a) control the impacts of the disease within the current controlled area and (b) slow or prevent the spread of the disease out of the current controlled area.
- There have been two surveys during the season. One full visual disease detection survey targeted all elms listed in the elm database in the four Auckland Cities and the Papakura District while the second survey targeted all the DED 'hot-spots' and high risk areas.
- As at the beginning of March 2006 seven diseased elms (three elms next to each other at the Auckland Zoo; one elm on each of two locations in the vicinity of the Waikumete Cemetery, one elm in New Lynn and one elm in Northcote) were detected and promptly removed.
- An initial grid of 23 traps, lured with the vector beetle attractant and deployed in the highest risk areas, was increased to 31 traps following detection of diseased beetles and/or elms.
- A total of 1542 beetles were trapped throughout the season. Over 30 diseased beetles were captured on three closely spaced traps in the Northcote area during late January and in February 2006, while one diseased beetle was captured in Elm Park Reserve (Manukau).
- BNZ is currently running a discussion round with the affected territorial local authorities regarding prospects for the response in 2006/07 and beyond. Dutch elm disease is currently being reviewed for its national significance, to inform the decision if the response should be managed through national pest management by BNZ.

GUM LEAF SKELETONISER (Transition to pest management)

- Tech Transfer process close to completion. Outputs include an information booklet summarising technical details on the insect, fact sheets, updating of the Biosecurity New Zealand website and availability of a synthetic pheromone.
- A surveillance programme undertaken by stakeholders (FFA, Local Authorities) has detected GLS at Katikati and Warkworth. Male moths were caught in traps baited with the synthetic pheromone.
- As at 8 July 2006 the Controlled Area for GLS will be revoked. This is mainly due to GLS being detected outside the greater Auckland region.
- Biological control research will continue. This will be funded from a variety of sources including FOA, Local Authorities, FFA and FRST.
- MAFs coordination of the programme is in the process of being transitioned to stakeholders. The main coordinators will be Ensis, Local Authorities and the FFA.

SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES NELSON

- A colony of Australian subterranean termites, *Coptotermes acinaciformis*, was reported in late January 2006 from a single property in Richmond, Nelson.
- A delimiting survey has been completed and activity appears confined to two neighbouring properties.
- The main response to the termites is implementation of the Sentricon bait system – this was successfully used at Otorohanga and is one of the main methods used internationally for eliminating subterranean termites.
- After going through an application process MAF has been provided with approval from ERMA to use the active ingredient hexaflumuron, which is the bait used in Sentricon.
- In late May 2006 Sentricon bait stations were placed at the two properties where termite activity is present.
- In late June additional bait stations were installed at four neighbouring properties. This was on advice from a number of termite experts. The purpose being to provide reassurance that the termites are confined to two properties and to enhance surveillance.
- The bait stations will be inspected on a monthly basis until no further activity is detected.

RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT - WHIRINAKI

- On June 7th 2006 *Solenopsis invicta* (Red Imported Fire Ant – RIFA) was identified from Pan Pac Forest Products Ltd, Whirinaki. The nest was thoroughly treated with an insecticide drench and toxic ant bait on June 9th.
- The nest appeared to be up to three years old, but this figure will be confirmed with further nest extraction, and climatic and population modeling.
- This form of RIFA is more likely to disperse by walking short distances rather than flying but is also capable of human-assisted dispersal. We are taking measures through surveillance, movement control and tracing to cover all three possibilities.
- Surveillance out to 200 m from the nest site, and at some additional high risk sites beyond 200 m, has been completed with no further RIFA nests found. However, due to deteriorating weather conditions surveillance over winter will be limited to pitfall trapping the zone out to 200 m from the nest site.
- A Controlled Area has been declared out to a 2 km radius from the nest site.
- Tracing activities will commence in the coming weeks to identify potential pathways for RIFA to the nest site. Tracing will also identify forward risk sites that have received high risk goods which may have transported RIFA from the Pan Pac nest area over the past three years. Genetic analysis will be conducted to determine the overseas source population for this colony.
- Surveillance will start again in late spring and continue over high risk areas for the coming two summers.
- This is the third detection of a RIFA colony in New Zealand, both previous finds were eradicated. The Whirinaki colony appears to be unrelated to the previous incursion at Port of Napier in 2004, but this will be confirmed with genetic analysis.