

Report to Forest Health Committee

Update on Current MAF Activities for meeting 27 April 2006

PAINTED APPLE MOTH and FALL WEBWORM, AUCKLAND (Eradication)

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

GUM LEAF SKELETONISER (Transition to pest management)

- Tech Transfer process well underway. A number of information sheets on GLS are now available. A booklet is being produced for reference, the MAF website is being updated and pheromone traps have been made available to FFA and Local Authorities in the upper North Island.
- Biological control continues, however, a proposal submitted to the SFF for funding to see the work through to completion has been rejected. Alternative options for funding beyond 30 June 2006 are now being explored.
- The Controlled Area remains in place and GLS activity has yet to be detected outside the greater Auckland region.

SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES NELSON

- A colony of Australian subterranean termites, *Coptotermes acinaciformis*, was reported in late January 2006 from a single property in Richmond, Nelson.
- The termite species is the same one that was declared eradicated in 2005 from sites at Otorohanga, Morrinsville and Matamata.
- Biosecurity New Zealand initial investigations indicate that the termites appear to have arrived in Richmond concealed within imported Australian used railway sleepers more than 10 years ago.
- The railway sleepers at the property have been used for landscaping and over a 10 year period the termites have entered the house via the plumbing. Internal damage has been observed to some of the untreated internal and external timber wall framing.
- Results of a delimiting survey carried out in late March 2006 indicate that the infestation is confined to two neighbouring properties. No activity has been found outside the immediate area where the termites were originally reported.
- This incursion is the first time that this species of termite has been found in the South Island, and currently there are no other known active subterranean termite sites in New Zealand.

HIGH RISK SITE SURVEILLANCE

- Second survey of sites has been completed.
- A smaller third survey will be held in May – this will be targeted at the higher risk sites using recent trade based data.
- Thirty eight pest records have been entered into the MAF database (PPIN) in the third quarter of 2005/06. These consisted of 2 new to New Zealand records, 22 new host

records and 14 new distribution records. Twenty one of these records resulted from HRSS.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE, AUCKLAND (Disease Management programme)

- During recent surveys six 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 and one elm in Northcote, North Shore) were detected.
- Diseased beetles were recorded from the North Shore. Over 20 diseased beetles were captured on three closely spaced traps between late January and February 2006.
- The programme for 06/07 is currently being assessed.