

# Report to Forest Health Committee

## Update on Current MAF Incursion Response Activities 15 June 2005

### **PAINTED APPLE MOTH, AUCKLAND (Eradication)**

- PAM trap find in May – Onehunga, Auckland.
- Trapping and localized searches have been carried out
- Initial forensic work shows moth to be new introduction
- West Auckland programme due for completion Jan 2006
- Sterile Insect technique programme initiated around new find as a precaution
- Health monitoring draft reports (PAM and AGM) have been received.
- Further forensic investigation is underway to increase data pool and accuracy of results

### **GYPSY MOTH, HAMILTON (Eradication)**

- On advice from the Gypsy Moth TAG, and as agreed by the CTO, eradication of the gypsy moth from Hamilton was officially declared by the Minister for Biosecurity on 26 May 2005.
- Close out of the programme is now almost complete.
- Traps have been removed from the field, Controlled Area restrictions revoked and operations shut down.
- Callers to the Gypsy Moth 0800 number will in the future be diverted to the MAF Exotic Disease and Pest Emergency Hotline - 0800 809 966.
- Future monitoring for the gypsy moth in Hamilton will now be via the national gypsy moth trapping programme.
- MAF will be reviewing and updating the Gypsy Moth Contingency Plan

### **FALL WEBWORM, AUCKLAND (Eradication)**

- A fifth catch found 9<sup>th</sup> June in Pakuranga
- Initial forensic work shows moths to be of Japanese origin and not from the original 2003 population
- Field lure efficacy testing is underway in America, Italy and Serbia  
Further forensic investigation is underway to increase data pool and accuracy of results
- Winter survey now underway looking for evidence of webbing
- Monitoring (trapping) continues (1272+ traps to 10km radius).

### **DUTCH ELM DISEASE, AUCKLAND (Eradication)**

- 2004/05 programme has included two visual surveys and a limited trapping at DED high risk sites for the vector beetle.
- Regular disease detection surveys have been completed in the first half of April 2005. Special surveys were organized in DED 'hot-spots' in parts of Manukau and Waitakere City during April and early May.
- Trapping scheduled to cease in the second half of April 2005 was prolonged all through to the second half of May 2005. Additional traps were added at DED 'hot-

spots' thus finally increasing trapping grid from initial 20 traps to 47 traps at the end of the season.

- By the end of the 2004/05 season 12 elms at 9 locations were confirmed diseased (5 locations in Waitakere, 2 in Manukau, 1 in N. Shore and 1 in Auckland) as well as 17 diseased beetles at 7 locations (5 locations in Manukau, 1 in Waitakere and 1 on the North Shore).
- All diseased and DED high-risk elms were removed. The most complex operation occurred this year at Mellons Bay Gully where all elms located on private and council land were removed in cooperation with Manukau City Council.
- New initiative bid required significantly increases funds. The request for increased funding was not successful. BNZ is currently consulting with stakeholders, actively assessing future management options.

#### **AUSTRALIAN SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES (Eradication)**

- Eradication at the Otorohanga, Morrinsville and Matamata sites officially declared by the Minister of Biosecurity on 5 May 2005.
- Close out operations complete.
- All monitoring devices have been removed from sites and vegetation restrictions removed.
- In the future the sites will be surveyed on an annual basis as part of the HRSS programme.

#### **GUM LEAF SKELETONISER (Transition to pest management)**

A number of MAF funded research projects are being carried out to develop tools for future management of the gum leaf skeletoniser in New Zealand. Some recent highlights from the research are outlined as follows:

- Current projects (except Biological Control) to be completed by 30 June 2005.
- Pheromone refinement and current research completed. Male moths were caught from ground level up to 13m above ground, with significantly more caught higher up the trees.
- Auckland population dynamics trials complete, with data from laboratory development trial being processed.
- Impact studies completed – reports being prepared.
- Biological control work is experiencing problems with low numbers of parasitoid control agents. This has created problems with maintaining culture for testing.
- Future biological control work will have to guard against hyperparasitism, and ensure that large numbers of *U. lugens* larvae are collected across a range of stages so that as large number of parasitoids as possible can be collected.
- Process of Tech Transfer to stakeholders to be developed in 2005/06 financial year.
- Stakeholder meeting held in Auckland on 28 April 2005 and working group to be formed from select members.

**Note:** MAF funding to support a smooth transition to pest management by growers and councils ceases at the end of the 2005-06 financial year. Some projects such as biological control and technology transfer will require on-going funding to complete. MAF is in the process of establishing a working group to assist in a smooth transition from MAF to stakeholder ownership.