



Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc

A0050224L (Incorporated in Victoria)

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22nd February 2019.

Dr Helen Scott-Orr
Inspector-General of Biosecurity
C/o Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
PO Box 657,
MASCOT NSW 1460

Dear Helen,

RE: Biosecurity measures to manage the risks of brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) entering Australia review.

The Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc (HGA) is the industry representative body for the Australian Hazelnut Industry.

While a small industry the recent involvement of the Italian confectionery company – Ferrero - has seen the industry expand quite rapidly in the past five years.

The anticipated growth is as follows: -

- In 2018, hazelnut production was valued at \$3.7 million (FGV). There is approximately 2,500 hectares planted (including Ferrero/Agri Australis) to hazelnuts, consisting of around 1.2 million trees.
- The industry is set for rapid expansion - as young orchards come into commercial bearing the industry estimates hazelnut production by 2021 will be 5,500 tonnes in-shell with a value of \$40 million.

The Hazelnut industry is an 'Affected Industry' under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and is an active participant on the CCEPP and NMG.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

Firstly, we would indicate that we fully support the submission that was prepared and submitted by AUSVEG. The points raised are most valid and cover the concerns of not only the vegetable industry but also Australian hazelnut growers.

In relation to more specific issues for the hazelnut industry we would make the following: -

- a) BMSB can have a major effect on hazelnuts mainly in the area of nut quality. The insects are known to pierce the hard shell of the nut and penetrate the kernel resulting in damage to the kernel. This leads to a downgrading on the nut/kernel.

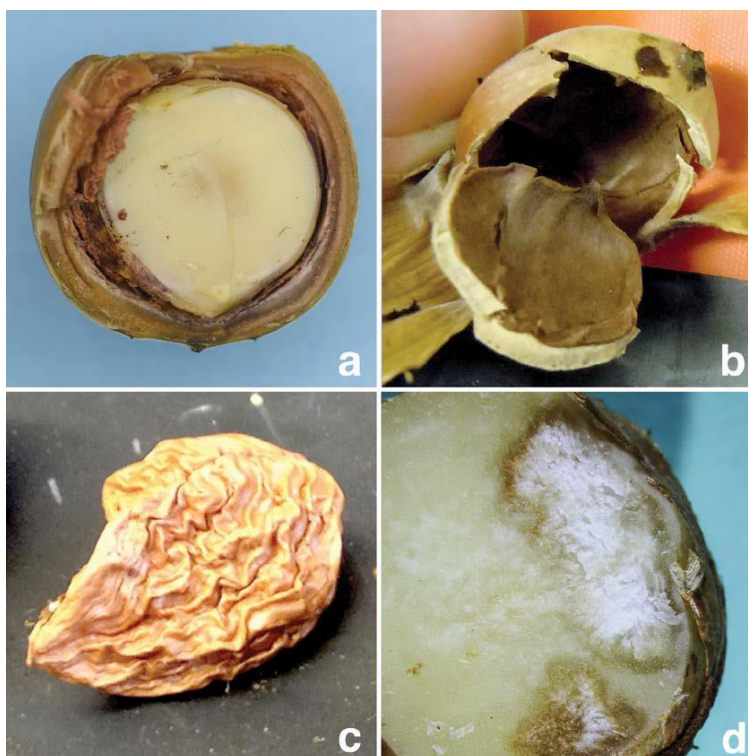


Figure 1. Primary damage symptoms associated with kernel feeding by BMSB on hazelnut kernels: a. healthy kernel (in shell); b. blank nut (empty shell); c. shrivelled kernel; d. corking damage.



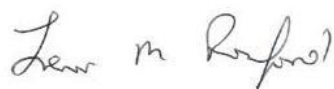
Figure 2. Example of damage to hazelnut kernels from nuts harvested at Rutgers attributed to the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. Note the marks from feeding and associated mould growth. (Coin included to show scale.)

- b) BMSB has many stages of development and each of those stages can have different effects on the stages of plant/nut development. While we are currently dealing with outbreaks of the mature insect if BMSB were to become established growers will be faced with dealing with the many stages of the insect life cycle. This is an area of concern.
- c) Currently the hazelnut industry has no chemicals registered for use, either through permit or label, to control BMSB.
- d) While industry participates in the EPPRD process the industry is concerned with the increasing number of outbreaks that may result in eradication programs and cost sharing. HGA is not sure how many of those events the industry can afford to participate in through cost sharing.
There are specific issues in relation to having a levy in place, the cost of levy collection and the method of collection given that one member of the industry may produce large volumes for use in the processing industry. While these points may well be outside of the parameters of this review, they are issues that may affect the long-term involvement of the hazelnut industry.
- e) HGA is concerned that while a number of outbreaks have been found, due to the diligence of the importing business/warehouse staff, how many outbreaks may have not been reported. There needs to be a single approach to the treatment of ALL containers entering Australia.
- f) HGA supports the concerns expressed by AUSVEG in relation to consumer communications.
The social media and community activities associated with specific outbreaks have appeared to be successful. There is a need to review these programs and consider how they can be duplicated across the large population areas particularly in the city areas around points of entry.
- g) Like AUSVEG, HGA is appreciative of the decisions to turn back cargo ships that are carrying insect populations. Hopefully this action will encourage shipping companies to be more vigilant and undertake more off-shore treatments.

HGA is happy to clarify any of the above points and/or supply additional information required.

Thanking you for the opportunity to participate in this review.

Yours sincerely,



Trevor M Ranford B.Sc., Dip MP (AIMSA), Adv Dip Hosp (Wine Marketing), AFIML
For and on behalf of the Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc.