

# Goulburn Valley 2019 Biosecurity Blitz

#GVBioBlitz2019

Play your part, know what to look for, and opt in to the 2019 Goulburn Valley Biosecurity Blitz.

Blitz with local growers, agronomists, gardeners and others from your region. Learn together what pests to keep a lookout for.

Boost regional early detection surveillance for two priority exotic pest threats and help horticulture remain healthy and successful in the Goulburn Valley.

## It takes 3 easy steps

1

Join us for exotic plant pest ID training & mock surveillance exercises

2

For two weeks test our surveillance guides on your farm or in your garden

3

Send us your blitz records and notify Agriculture Victoria of any suspect detections

## It all starts with training

Blitzers will receive training in identification of exotic plant pests, conducting detailed surveillance, GPS tagging of monitoring sites, collecting and storing suspect pest samples, and maintaining good biosecurity between farms and regions.

**Date and time:** 10 April 2019, 3 pm-5 pm

**Where:** Agriculture Victoria, 255 Ferguson Rd, Tatura

**Cost:** Free

Book a place at [gvbioblitz2019.eventbrite.com](http://gvbioblitz2019.eventbrite.com)



**Australian Government**  
Department of Agriculture  
and Water Resources



sustainability through  
science and innovation



# Biosecurity is everybody's business

Exotic plant pests can have a devastating impact on rural communities. Production impacts, disruption to integrated pest management plans, out-of-spec harvests, loss of market access, and pest containment measures are likely consequences of an exotic pest establishing in your commercial production region.

Early detection and reporting is crucial for increasing the chances of eradication, containment, or a fast and effective move to manage loss and damage.

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) and plum pox virus (PPV) are exotic pests that could have a significant impact on the Goulburn Valley. PPV has never been detected in Australia. BMSB was recently detected in some locations in the Melbourne metro area associated with imported goods and is under active control and surveillance by Agriculture Victoria.

## Keeping a lookout for priority exotic pests

BMSB is a mottled, brown coloured, shield shaped bug. It is known to hitchhike, seeking shelter during winter inside buildings and vehicles.

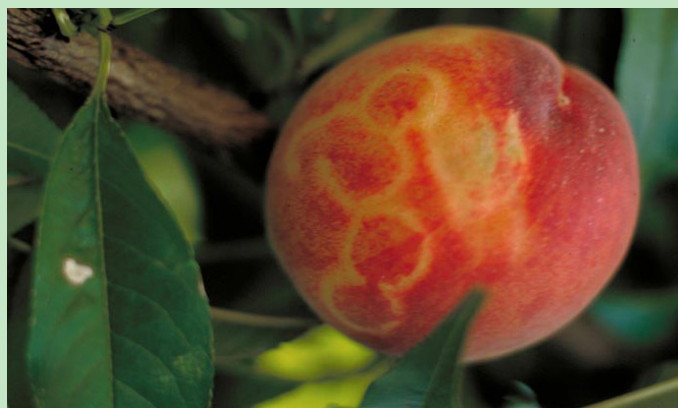
It feeds on more than 300 plant species, including apples, pears, nuts, grains, berries, citrus, nursery stock, and ornaments. It is also a major pest in the garden and within the home.

Outbreaks of BMSB have caused significant losses to growers in eastern US, where it is now regarded as a greater pest than codling moth.

PPV (aka Sharka) is an exotic plant pest of cherry, stone and summer fruits, not yet present in Australia.

This aphid-transmitted virus is a serious threat to Australia's stonefruit industry, causing fruit deformity of stonefruit, and leaving mottling on fruit and leaves.

Alternative PPV hosts in Australia are street trees, or those grown in community and domestic gardens, thus monitoring on both farms and in gardens is crucial for early detection.



*This project is part of the Australian's Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper investment in improving biosecurity surveillance and analysis.*

For further information contact **cesar** at [info@cesaraustralia.com](mailto:info@cesaraustralia.com)

Image sources: BMSB on white background (Kristie Graham, USDA ARS, Bugwood.org), BMSB on leaf (Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org), Plum Pox Virus, peach (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, Bugwood.org)