

FAW Response: Situation Report as at 1300 hours Friday August 5 2022 (SitRep #25)

Response background:

- An egg mass was found on 16 March 2022 in Tauranga on the outside of an Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) trap. This egg mass was submitted to Plant Health Environment Laboratory (PHEL) and identified as the Unwanted Organism Fall armyworm (FAW) on 24 March 2022.
- Further, on 2 April 2022 mature caterpillars were found by a grower on volunteer corn in a paddock at Waikato. Following the positive identification of FAW by PHEL on 11 April, the surrounding area was inspected by Biosecurity New Zealand, which identified FAW at a further property two kilometres away.
- It is believed that the arrival of FAW in New Zealand was via wind-dispersal from the east coast of Australia, following a recent outbreak in that region combined with favourable wind conditions facilitating transport over the Tasman Sea.

Intent:

Act to reduce the impact of Fall Armyworm (FAW) on New Zealand primary producers and taonga species.

Objectives:

1. Understand the distribution of FAW within NZ using sector-led surveillance;
2. To effectively manage identified FAW populations, reducing the risk of a reservoir population growing at the start of next spring;
3. Further understand FAW's ability to persist in NZ and specific impacts to growers and taonga species

Updates as of 5 August 2022:

- We have received **328** enquiries related to FAW as of 5 August 2022
 - This is an increase of **6** from the last update.
- The total number of confirmed detections continues to remain at 27 (unchanged since last week).
 - **26** infested properties + 1 location of interest
- The response team has commenced the procurement process for the three FAW research projects on
 - climate modelling,
 - spring assessment/overwintering, and
 - impacts on taonga species

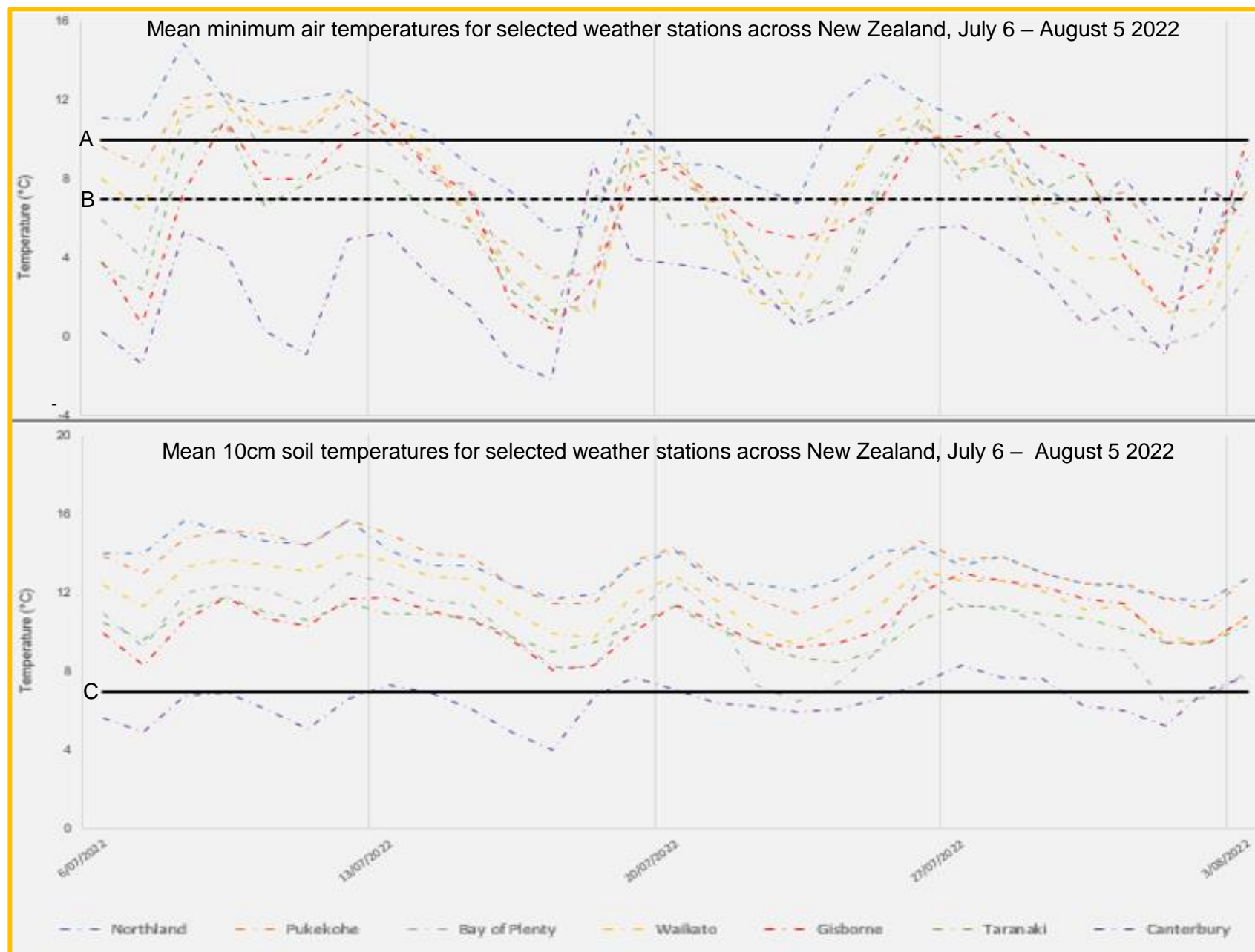


Figure 1: Daily mean minimum air temperature (top) and 10cm soil temperature (bottom) for weather stations in Northland Region, Pukekohe, Waikato Region, Taranaki Region, Bay of Plenty Region, Gisborne Region, and Canterbury Region for the period 06/07/2022 to 03/08/2022.

Also shown are (A) minimum air temperature required for development of FAW eggs and larva (10°C), (B) minimum air temperature for survival of FAW adults, and (C) minimum soil temperature required for development of FAW pupae (7.4°C).