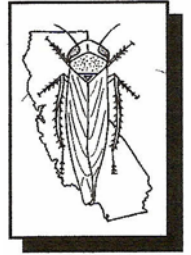


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



## **CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM**

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Weekly Report for Week Ending March 23, 2012

### **Imperial County**

The desert region around Travertine Point, and west of the Salton Sea, showed no sign of precipitation, despite a recent winter storm in the area. The lack of rainfall has resulted in no winter plants developing this spring. Soil conditions are abysmally dry. At this time, all indigenous plants and shrubs appear to be either in advancing stages of stress or dormancy. Along Hwy 86, toward Westmoreland and Brawley, host vegetation is scarce. Small *Chenopodium* and traces of London rocket were found occasionally in thin strips next to the asphalt. Otherwise, roadsides in the area were bare and dry.

West of El Centro, conditions were more accommodating. Surveys found abundant host plants along several roadsides, chiefly malva and green *Chenopodium*. However, some areas appeared cleaned of vegetation, by the either growers or the County Road Maintenance Department. The same situation was observed in the northern areas around Niland and Calipatria. Host vegetation was inconsistent along most roadsides, and appeared randomly at different locations. Beet leafhopper (BLH) counts were also low. Surveys produced 0–2 adults per 10 sweeps.

The East and West Mesas appear similar in contrast. A small, narrow strip of desert, on Hwy 98 near Ocotillo, was found to have limited amounts of *Plantago* and *Verbena*. The host plants were stressed, and somewhat anomalous to the region, surrounded by a barren and dry expanse of desert. BLH surveys produced 1 adult per 10 sweeps. A few small nymphs were picked up on *Verbena*. Traces of *Plantago* were also found on a small portion of the East Mesa. This may have been the result of early precipitation; however, no moisture remained in the soil at this time. BLH activity was very minimal averaging less than 1 adult per 10 sweeps.

Sugar beets were found in various stages of maturity. Overall acreage appears larger than previous estimates. Several fields are relatively young, while others appear close to harvest. With regard to BCTV susceptible crops, spinach harvest is currently winding down. On the east side, near Ogilby Road, the spring cantaloupe crop is up. A perimeter check found no host plants in the vicinity. As a precaution to whitefly-CYSDV, the majority of over-wintering weeds appear to have been eliminated by the grower. However, a dry wash was found some distance away that harbored a small amount of *Plantago* and London Rocket. BLH surveys produced 0–2 adults per 10 sweeps on *Plantago*, and 1 adult on London rocket. An occasional 3<sup>rd</sup> instar nymph was also found in this area.

## Riverside County

Roadside vegetation near Palo Verde and Ripley consists of scanty patches of malva and *Chenopodium*. BLH surveys averaged 2.5 adults per 10 sweeps. Overall plant conditions on the east side of the valley appear similar, although BLH counts were slightly higher. Surveys produced 6–8 spring adults per 10 sweeps on short *Chenopodium*, and 1 per 10 on malva. Most of the roadsides in this area, and on the west side, remained clean. A check of the nearby bluffs found soil conditions dry and bare. This was representative of the entire region.

The roadsides north of Blythe appeared to support more vegetation than other areas. The density of host plants was sporadic, and BLH counts were varied. As with the east side, small BLH populations tend to concentrate on available plants. Survey counts ranged from 0–5 adults per 10 sweeps on short, red-stem *Chenopodium*. Typically, no counts were found on malva. North of the golf course, surveys produced an average of 1–2 adults, plus 2 nymphs on scant, spindly *Plantago* remnants.

At this time, it appears that the amount of host vegetation in all locations is negligible. Both counties had low summer BLH populations and both continue to maintain relatively small populations into spring. Another survey may be prudent later on. BCTV Program renewed Imperial County Operator ID permit for 2012. The Operator ID permit for Riverside County was updated previously.

## Fresno County

Significant rain fell in the San Joaquin Valley last weekend on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Zapatos Canyon and Pappas Yard received 1.5 inches. Enough rain has recently fallen to cause host plant germination in most areas. Due to some saturated conditions, some survey work was temporarily restricted until wetter areas dried.

Host plant survey in the Little Panoche Canyon found BLH counts averaging 7-8 spring adults with a few nymphs in the mine creek area. This is a small area with good vegetation. Most of the area is beginning to develop more consistent host plant germination due to the recent rainfall on the westside of the San Joaquin Valley. The Tumey Hills remain void of vegetation, even though there was evidence of rainfall in the area. The vegetation in these areas will continue to be monitored for the development of BLH populations.

Survey was performed in the hills north of 198 and west of Interstate 5. Rangeland vegetation is beginning to green up just north of Fresno-Coalinga road. Filaree accounts for the majority of host plant development in the area. No BLH's could be found even though there are sufficient host plants.

BLH counts in the Big "C" area have not changed from previous surveys. BLH counts averaged 2 spring adults per 10 sweeps on the better slopes. A few nymphs were found on roadsides along Mt. Whitney Avenue just east of Three Rocks. They were found on London rocket and were 2<sup>nd</sup> instar nymphs.