

BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

2895 N. Larkin, Suite A

Fresno, CA 93727

PHONE: (559) 294-2031

FAX: (559) 294-2037

Weekly Report for Week Ending March 2, 2012

Kern County

Kern County received between 0.25 & 0.40 inches of precipitation on Monday. A dusting of light snow appeared on the mountains surrounding Taft and Maricopa later in the day. Precipitation was widespread, and varied from place to place with the highest amount of 0.5 inches near Arvin. Gardner Field, which had been left dry last time, had moisture down 2 inches on the south slopes. Kitty Care appeared to have had ample runoff as well, and pooling was observed in many low spots. A tentative resurgence of filaree can be found in some areas. A few patches of foxtail have emerged in Reserve Valley, and traces of filaree can be found in the No Name and 36 Hills. Moisture penetration in this area ranged from a depth of 1–1.5 inches and should be adequate for some germination. The long-term effect, however, may depend on a lot more precipitation.

Beet leafhopper (BLH) counts continue to remain low. Reserve Valley generated very little activity. Surveys in the No Name and 36 Hills produced less than 1 adult per 10 sweeps. Suitable BLH survey conditions were limited during the week by wind and cool temperatures. A trace of precipitation fell on Wednesday.

While winter vegetation has been less than sporadic on the hillsides, the primary source of host plants has consistently been along roadsides. Near Lost Hills and Blackwells Corner, filaree, malva, and small stands of fiddleneck and mustard are found. So far, BLH surveys have not produced any significant counts in this area or elsewhere. Filaree had an average of 1 adult per 10 sweeps. On the east side, roadside goosefoot and filaree produced 1–2 adults in 10 sweeps. An exception was found in an abandoned field near Laval Road, where counts ranged from 0–5 per 10 sweeps on filaree.

Fresno County

A storm front moved through the San Joaquin Valley during the week producing cold windy conditions. There was enough precipitation to settle the dust but not to impact the dry conditions that remain in most survey areas. BLH survey was made difficult in most areas due to strong winds.

Host plant survey was performed on the north tip of the Kettleman Hills. There was very little viable rangeland vegetation found. The small amount of vegetation that germinated earlier in the winter has dried up. Rangeland habitat appears as it does in mid summer. A little precipitation came to the San Joaquin Valley during the week but it does not appear that it was enough to make any difference. BLH survey throughout the area found no BLH's.

A survey of Zapatos Canyon also found real dry conditions and a habitat void of annual vegetation. Windy conditions and cold temperatures hampered sweeping for BLH's in the area. Considering the lack of annual vegetation, it does not appear that many BLH's could be supported in this current habitat.

Survey was performed in the vicinity of the Big C where the annual vegetation is viable and growing. The filaree remains small, but it is green and doing well. BLH counts in the area are low averaging less than one per 10 sweeps in the best areas. Warthan Canyon to the south is also beginning to green up and looks like there are plenty of viable host plants. Windy conditions in Warthan Canyon prevented BLH survey in this area.

To the north, the Domengine Ranch remains dry. Low lying areas, such as draws and a few flat areas, have some vegetation. The average BLH counts are low, less than 1 per 10 sweeps, in the best areas. Host plant vegetation is absent on south facing slopes.

Survey in the Toomey Hills found dry conditions and a rangeland habitat void of annual vegetation. BLH survey in the area produced no BLH's.