

# 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 April 13, 2012

### **Kern County**

The west side received over 1.0 inch of precipitation this week. The total for each location varied; however, it appears that the Lost Hills area may have received more. Many of the access roads here, and at Kernridge, were inaccessible due to mud and standing water. Host plant surveys conducted early in the week found that summer plants have started to emerge in portions of the Lost Hills oil field, and a trace of Russian thistle was also found on the flats west of town. Beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys in the oil field produced 1 adult on a small patch of filaree. Roadsides in the area were also checked for viable remnants of malva, filaree, and London Rocket. Random BLH counts averaged less than 1 per 10 sweeps.

Reserve Valley appears to have received less precipitation from Wednesday's storm. Ample moisture was available to reinvigorate filaree on the Triple Five Hills, and other nearby areas. New range grass is also starting to emerge. The overall amount of rainfall this week may help sustain vegetation. Surveys were hampered due to poor weather conditions; however, BLH counts have remained consistently low in this area. It is very possible that additional rain, and late germination of host plants, will hold the small BLH population on the slopes for a longer period of time.

A BLH survey of east Cuyama Valley produced a high count of 2 adults per 10 sweeps. The area also received some precipitation, however weather conditions were fair. Random surveys were conducted along Hwy 33, and a portion of Foothill Road. The western end of Foothill, near Bell Road, had zero counts. In some places vegetation appeared dense and specious especially on the irrigated headlands and several fallow fields. For the most part, roadside host plants consist of filaree, malva, and occasional mustard. Several places also had an assortment of fiddleneck and foxtail.

Late host plant development appears to have stymied BLH activity. In light of the current low BLH counts, an aerial spray campaign does not appear likely at this time. However, program personnel will continue to monitor the BLH and habitat conditions. Contact was made with the Bureau of Land Management earlier this week, requesting an extension of the April 15 treatment deadline for blunt-nosed leopard lizard, should the conditions change later on.

### **Fresno County**

BLH survey was performed early in the week prior to rainy weather. Survey conditions were hampered by cool and cloudy weather. Host plants are green and healthy, but are pretty small for this time of year. Overall BLH counts remain low averaging 3-4 per 10 sweeps in most areas.

Mostly filaree with a small amount of peppergrass was found developing in rangeland habitat, north of Highway 198 and east of Highway 33. BLH counts averaged 3-4 per 10 sweeps in this area. Approximately 1/3 of the counts were comprised of nymphs with the remainder being spring adults. BLH counts were slightly higher along the road that dissected the property. Survey in the Domengine area showed similar conditions and similar BLH counts.

Westside locations received 0.3 to 0.25 of an inch of rain this week and more rain fell over the weekend. Program personnel will continue survey activities on the westside to determine if more BLH's will hatch from the filaree when it begins to stress under warmer temperatures.

### **Fresno Facility**

The process of updating the BLM thematic map layer was completed. The layer illustrates a multi-year aerial treatment footprint from previous treatment campaigns (1997-2007 & 2009-2011). The "Multi-Year Aerial Treatment Tables" for BLM surface treatments will be completed in the near future.

The batteries on the quads were charged and made ready for the A.T.V. class being held in Shafter next week.