

BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending April 6, 2012

Kern County

Wind from the weekend storm depleted soil moisture in most areas, including the small amount of precipitation that accompanied it. Vegetation in the Reserve Valley was negatively affected, particularly along the western end. On much of the Triple Five Hills, filaree remains small and scattered. Foxtail and other plants appear to be waning, especially where moisture losses occurred. Beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys averaged 0–3 adults per 10 sweeps with a single 3rd instar nymph.

In a few places BLH counts have risen slightly, however, they are still well below the threshold. Host vegetation, in the No Name and 36 Hills, is low in density and less vigorous. Overall plant stress is also increasing. The No Name Hills averaged 1 adult, plus 1 nymph, per 10 sweeps on filaree with a high count of 5 per 10. There is abundant new growth of filaree and some pepper grass has occurred in the burn area; however, no BLH counts were found. Weather conditions had also deteriorated at the time of the survey.



Program personnel received permission to enter the Occidental oil fields in Elk Hills on Wednesday. Recently, rules regarding safety and security have become more stringent in the oil fields of Kern County. Surveys conducted on the west portion of Elk Hills produced 0–1 BLH's per 10 sweeps under cool and cloudy weather conditions. Near roadsides and flat areas, filaree and malva appear to be abundant and hardy. South-facing slopes along the bottom region also retain fair amounts of vegetation, however much of it appears spotty and in early stages of decline. BLH activity was found mainly in this area. The higher slopes were generally bare of host plants. Low counts could be partially attributed to unfavorable weather and widespread dissemination.

The east side of Elk Hills had similar conditions. Host plants appear stressed in many areas, and may be more limited than on the west end. A soil check found moisture depletion down to about 5 inches, slightly below the current root depth of filaree. BLH counts were consistent also. A single high count had 1 adult and 2 nymphs in 10 sweeps. The overall, the average was less than 1.

So far, BLH pressure has not developed in any particular area. Late germination of host plants, and the continuing decline in availability, may be the reason.

Fresno County

Survey in the Tumey Hills this week found very dry conditions. There is only a small amount of vegetation growing along roadsides. No BLH's were found, due to lack of host plants.

Survey in Little Panoche on Narbaitz Ranch found good vegetation, mostly filaree, in all areas. BLH counts were 15 - 20 BLH per 10 sweeps in a small area near Mine Creek. Most of the other property averaged 5-7 BLH's per 10 sweeps. Nymph to spring adult ratio is about 50/50.

Survey in the Zwang Ranch found fairly good vegetation in most areas. Filaree is the primary host plant, but some peppergrass was also observed. Host plants are 1-2 inches tall and very green and viable. BLH counts averaged 3-4 adults and 1-2 nymphs per 10 sweeps. There was a high count of 12 per 10 sweeps, but this was a small isolated area.



The big "C", Rifle Range and Alcalde ranch now have sufficient vegetation, primarily filaree. The filaree is about 1-2 inches tall and very healthy. A small amount of peppergrass and *Plantago* was found in isolated areas. BLH counts in these areas were low, averaging 2-3 adults with an occasional nymph per 10 sweeps. It seems like there is pretty good amounts of vegetation now due to the recent rains, but the BLH counts are generally low.

Survey in the Kettleman Hills found some spotty host vegetation, mostly Filaree. Conditions remain generally dry, but there is some new germination due to the recent rains. Windy conditions prevented BLH survey with sweep nets.

Fresno Facility

The spring Pesticide Safety Training Meeting was held on Thursday. The present condition of rangeland vegetation and BLH populations was discussed. To date, BLH populations this spring remain low and aerial treatments have not been planned. Recent rains have produced new germination. It will be several more weeks to determine if BLH populations will develop from areas now containing suitable host vegetations.