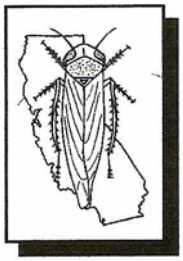
BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



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Weekly Report for Week Ending May 18, 2012

Kern County

Program personnel completed treatment on roadsides this week. The equivalent of 160 acres was sprayed in the vicinity of Lost Hills and the Kernridge Oil Field. Approximately 120 acres of roadside were treated near Taft and Maricopa, and another 40 acres on the east side. The total amount of roadside treated in Kern County was 360 acres.

Survey of summer host plants was conducted at Williams Pump, west of Kernridge. Negligible amounts of stunted foxtail and desiccated brome grass was found mostly around the main production unit. The whole area otherwise appeared dry and bare. On the south portion of the McDonald–Anticline Oil Field and surrounding rangeland, a vast proliferation of young Russian thistle was found beneath the remnants of old and decayed winter plants. However, the combination of arid soil and overall plant density could very well limit further Russian thistle development. Tentative beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys on the rangeland produced no counts at this time.

Russian thistle continues to develop in the Lost Hills Oil Field and surrounding agricultural land. Some of the farm ground is currently being disked. Sheep have been placed in places where Russian thistle is most prevalent, and inside a small portion of the oil field property. As a result, summer host plant acreage is declining. BLH kill checks were conducted on nearby roadside vegetation sprayed late last week. The survey found no BLH activity.

Fresno County

Continued BLH survey on the westside of Fresno County found most rangeland host plants have dried up except for Russian thistle in some areas. Below normal precipitation left most BLH overwintering habitat with little or no host plants through much of the winter and spring. The most preferred host plants for BLH reproduction, Peppergrass and *Plantago*, did not develop in most areas. The low overwintering BLH population had little plant material on which to develop which severely limited BLH reproduction. BLH counts did not exceed population densities necessary to conduct aerial control this spring.

The last few rain events in April helped produce an abundance of Russian thistle in fallow fields as well as portions of the westside hills. Depending on how the survivability of the Russian thistle this summer, the Program could have many acres to treat in the fall. Program staff is currently conducting roadside treatment and crop survey. Ground-rig spot treatments of BLH populations in roadside host plants began on May 16th. Approximately 100 acres of roadside host plants were treated during the week. Ground-rig spot treatments were hampered by winds on several days. To date, tomato plantings on the westside of the San Joaquin Valley are developing without Beet Curly Top Virus symptoms.

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Fresno Facility

Fall survey maps are being prepared for use by field staff to begin mapping Russian thistle and other summer host plants. The mapping of Russian thistle will begin in several weeks.