

BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending August 17, 2012

Kern County

Persistent hot temperatures have caused extreme plant stress in many areas on the west side. Beet leafhopper (BLH) counts have also risen dramatically, particularly where large tracts of Russian thistle have dried. On the flats, west of Lost Hills, BLH populations have concentrated on patches of Russian thistle. Surveys produced between 30 to 50 BLH per sweep near the abandoned pits in Section 34. Approximately 25% of the leafhopper population consisted of 2nd and 3rd instar nymphs. The increase can be attributed to on-going nearby cultivation, extensive sheep grazing, and the current heat wave.

Surrounding areas near Lost Hills experienced increases as well. The west end of the property had counts ranging from 3 to 12 adults, plus 2 to 3 nymphs, per single sweep. Near the Lost Hills Airport, surveys on green *Bassia* produced 10 per sweep. Nymphs were also plentiful, mostly 2nd and 3rd instars. BLH counts in live Russian thistle averaged 2 to 4 per 10 sweeps with an occasional nymph.

Lost Hills and Kernridge Oil Fields continue to have low BLH counts. Both areas averaged 1 to 2 BLH per single sweep.

Fresno County

The delimitation of potential treatment properties continued in areas previously mapped. During the week approximately 3,780 acres had been disked in one of the larger areas mapped between Mendota and Three Rocks. Russian thistle, *Bassia* and fog weed continue to mature however; the average BLH populations remain relatively low. BLH counts range from 2 to 3 adults and 1 nymph per single sweep on Russian thistle. Counts on *Bassia* are lower averaging 0.5 to 1 adult per sweep. In the vicinity of Kamm Avenue and Interstate 5, Russian thistle appears stunted and in some areas is beginning to stress and dwindle.

Kings County

Property waivers for Kings County were mailed during the week to obtain permission for potential treatment of BLH populations in the fall.