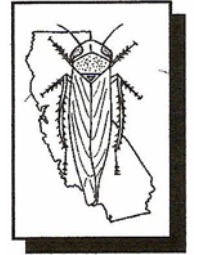


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Monthly Report for February, 2013

Overall, the adult beetle leafhopper (BLH) population decreased. The spring hatch is underway with increasing numbers of BLH nymphs. The majority of the month was dry with very little precipitation. Host plants are drying and stressing, producing favorable conditions for the BLH's. Filaree was still the dominant host plant, however, *Plantago* and peppergrass were patchy in some areas.

Fresno County

February remained relatively dry. A brief rain storm passed through Fresno County mid month producing about 0.3 inches of precipitation.

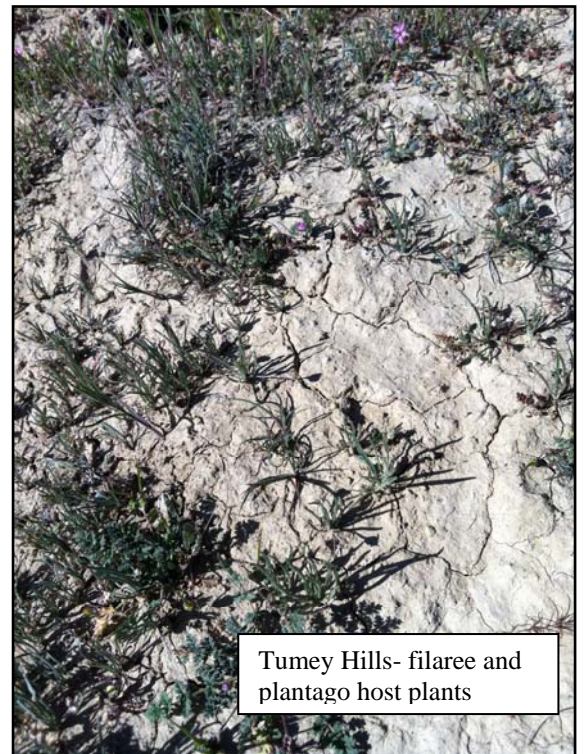
Narbitz, Panoche Hills, and the Staircase east of Interstate 5 all had averages of 1-2 adult BLH's per 10 sweeps.

In the lower Tumey Hills, counts were 5-8 adult BLH on average, per 10 sweeps. By the end of the month, adult BLH counts were lower with nymph counts increasing. Nymph counts averaged 18 per 10 sweeps, while adult BLH counts dropped to an average of 2-5 per 10 sweeps. The vegetation at Tumey Hills started to show signs of stress and desiccation by the end of the month. Filaree was still the dominant host plant; however more *Plantago* and peppergrass were observed this month.

Domengine Ranch also had low adult BLH counts and higher nymph counts. Adult BLH counts averaged 2-6 per 10 sweeps, and nymph counts averaged 10-20 per 10 sweeps. This area also showed signs of stress, host plants were drying by the end of the month.

The Warthan Canyon/Alcalde Ranch area also showed signs that filaree was stressed and drying out. BLH nymph counts were on average 15, per 10 sweeps, with the majority of them in the 2nd instar stage.

Coalinga/Big "C" area consisted of stressed vegetation and BLH nymph counts of greater than 50, per 10 sweeps.



Tumey Hills- filaree and
plantago host plants

Kern County

Program staff participated in a safety orientation class at Oxy headquarters to attain proper identification for access to the Elk Hills area. Crews also surveyed Western Mineral and Elkhorn Grade for host plants and BLH.

Filaree was the dominate host plant but there were good patches of *Plantago* and some peppergrass as well. Average adult BLH counts were 7-8 per 10 net sweeps. Crews also identified potential treatment areas and flight patterns for the spring spray campaign in the Elk Hills, Western Mineral and Elkhorn Grade vicinity.

Adult BLH counts declined by the end of the month with counts averaging 2-6 per 10 sweeps in the areas southeast of Taft, Kitty Care, Gardner Field, and the Buena Vistas.

In the northwest; portions of Taft, No Names, Triple Fives, and 36 Hills; adult BLH counts are 0-3 per 10 sweeps. No nymphs were detected.

Kings County

The Kettleman Hills, south of Highway 41, had high numbers of adult BLH at the beginning of February, with average counts being greater than 15 per 10 sweeps.

Host vegetation in the Kettleman Hills, north of Highway 41, consisted primarily of stressed filaree. By the end of the month, adult BLH activity drastically declined, but nymph counts increased. BLH counts averaged 3 adults and 12 nymphs per 10 sweeps.

In the Interstate 5 and 25th Avenue area, BLH counts were minimal. Average counts consisted of 5 adults and 3 nymphs per 10 sweeps. The dominant host plant was stressed filaree with some patches of *Plantago*.

Imperial/Riverside County

BCTV personnel surveyed roadside vegetation for BLH. London Rocket, mustard, goosefoot, Verbena, lambsquarter, shepard's purse and cheeseweed were abundant and green. Host plants were wide spread through out the desert therefore, populations of BLH were widespread and difficult to detect. Sweeps were conducted on the roadside vegetation, averaged 0-2 adult BLH per 10 sweeps. BLH populations will become more detectable as the desert host vegetation dries.

Pesticide use permits were renewed for both Imperial County and Riverside County.

Fresno Facility

Program personnel rebuilt the platform for the pressure washer, due to wood rot and decay of the old platform. The hoses were also replaced and the pressure washer was serviced.

Staff continued to work on getting property waivers sent out.