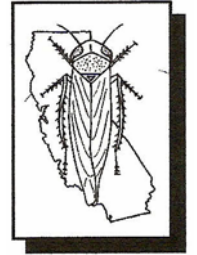


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS

# MONTHLY REPORT



## **CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM**

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Report for December, 2015

### **Program-wide notice**

- Beet leafhopper counts were still very low in all areas surveyed. In the northwestern portions of the San Joaquin Valley area, precipitation has allowed for the germination of winter host plants and annual grasses. BLH counts were minimal. In the southwestern portions, hillsides remained very dry and lacked winter host plants. BLH were not observed.
- Surveys were conducted to locate and identify bee boxes in Fresno County. Program personnel made contact with bee owners and provided maps of the Program's potential spring spray campaign for advance notification. Bees were only observed foraging when the bee boxes were within a mile of the survey location.
- The Program will continue to conduct BLH surveys, host plant surveys, and collect samples for virus analysis.

### **Fresno County**

- Some parts of the valley floor were surveyed for BLH and host plants. Surveys were conducted from Five Points to Mendota, along Highway 269 to Interstate 5 and Highway 145 to Belmont Avenue. There were no viable host plants, only annual grasses. No BLH were observed.
- BLH sweep surveys and winter host plant vegetation surveys were conducted in the Panoche Creek area. Vegetation in the area was thriving, however, some of the filaree was showing signs of stress. Annual grasses were prevalent throughout the flat land. BLH counts were on average 1-3 adult BLH per 10 sweeps.
- BLH sweep surveys and winter host plant vegetation surveys were conducted in the Tumey Hills area. Surveys were limited due to muddy roads, run-off trenches, and sink holes. Filaree accounts for the majority of the BLH host plants, and was showing signs of stress. There were some areas with *Plantago*. BLH counts were low, with an average of 1-3 adults per 10 sweeps.
- Bee boxes were observed at the south end of Domengine Ranch. Bee boxes were also observed on the north side of Manning Avenue, just east of Interstate 5. Fresno County was able to assist the Program by providing owner identification for those bee boxes. Maps of the Program's spring spray campaign were given to the bee brokers and owners in order to provide advance notice of potential spray activity.
- Kreyhagen Ranch hills area (Zapato's Canyon), west of Highway 33 between Avenal and Coalinga had some germination of winter host plants. Filaree and peppergrass was very sparse and short. BLH sweep surveys yielded 3-4 overwintering adults per 10 sweeps. Non-target leafhoppers were also observed in slightly lower counts.
- The "Big C" area of Coalinga had a significant amount of vegetation emerging. BLH sweep counts were 3-4 adults per 10 sweeps.

- Five (5) beet leafhopper samples were collected and submitted for virus analysis. Two (2) were positive for curly top virus.
- Seven (7) host plant samples were collected and submitted for virus analysis. One (1) sample was positive for curly top virus.

### **Kern County**

- Western Kern County remained dry throughout December.
- Surveys were conducted in Lost Hills, 36 Hills, Buena Vista Hills, and Kitty Care. No BLH were observed.
- Beet leafhoppers were scarce as the last observation of adult BLH was in early December. The majority of the winter host plants have not emerged. There was a little filaree beginning to sprout and then became stunted and stressed due to frost and lack of water.
- One BLH sample was collected in early December from some dying Russian thistle left on the valley floor. Results will be reported next month.
- BLH samples and host plants will be collected and submitted for analysis as they become available.

### **Kings County**

- Despite some precipitation over the month, the western foothills and canyons remained very dry and did not have a lot of vegetation emerging.
- BLH samples and host plants will be collected and submitted for analysis as they become available.

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