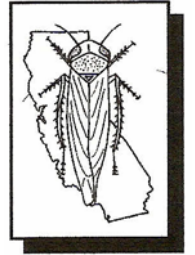


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Report for January, 2016

Program-wide notice

- Several days of rainfall throughout January has germinated the beet leafhopper winter host plants. In many locations, filaree is very abundant and widespread. *Plantago* and peppergrass are common along the south facing slopes of the hillsides.
- Last year in January, the Program conducted a winter spray campaign in two locations. This year, the rain and the cold temperatures have kept the BLH populations in check and have remained low. The rainfall has also stimulated the annual grasses, which are abundant, tall, and lush. The thick non-host vegetation has also contributed to the low overwintering BLH population.
- Last year at the end of January, a winter treatment campaign was conducted to control unusually high numbers of overwintering adult female BLH. This year, two locations were just beginning to show higher BLH counts and the first nymphs. The Big C (which was treated last winter and spring) and an area north of Los Gatos Road in Coalinga were the only areas with high adult BLH counts and nymphs.
- The Program will continue to monitor those locations and a winter treatment campaign will be conducted if needed and as weather permits.
- A total of fifty (50) host plant samples were collected from Fresno, Kern, and Kings Counties. Six (6) were positive for curly top virus.
- A total of twenty-eight (28) BLH samples were collected from Fresno, Kern, and Kings Counties. Seven (7) of the twenty-eight (28) were positive for curly top virus.
- Overall, the BLH counts and virus levels were low in January.
- No bees were observed in BLH sweep counts nor in areas where surveys were conducted.

Fresno County

- Panoche Creek and Tumey Hills were surveyed as weather permitted. Muddy road conditions and washouts were present on the west side of the Tumey Hills in early January. By the end of January, road conditions had not improved much. The vegetation was still lush. BLH counts were low. Counts were 0-1 adult BLH and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps. Panoche Creek was also very lush and counts were 0-1 adult BLH and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps.
- Filaree was the predominant host plant and was widespread in the Panoche Creek and Tumey Hills properties. *Plantago* was developing along the south facing slopes. There was also an abundance of tall and lush winter grasses on both properties. BLH counts were very low, with an average count of less than 1 adult BLH and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps.
- The east side of the Tumey Hills were surveyed toward the end of January. Vegetation is lush and widespread. Filaree, peppergrass, and *Plantago* were established. BLH were not observed in areas with lush vegetation. In areas with

bare ground, BLH counts were 1-2 adults per 10 sweeps. The first BLH nymph was observed.

- Surveys were conducted on the Domengine Ranch property. Filaree, peppergrass, and *Plantago* were abundant. Annual grasses were also tall and lush throughout the property. BLH counts were low with averages being 0-2 adult BLH and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps.
- Surveys were conducted on the North Chevron property. Filaree, peppergrass and *Plantago* had developed, however, vegetation was thick and lush, with very little bare ground. No BLH were observed.
- On the Chevron property, there was abundant filaree and winter grasses with some peppergrass. BLH counts were 1-3 adults and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps. On one south western facing slope there was a wide band of *Plantago* among some bare ground. Counts were a little higher, with 3-5 adult BLH and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps.
- An area known as “the Nose” north east of the Coalinga airport had lush vegetation. On slopes with more *Plantago* the BLH counts were higher than on slopes with filaree. BLH counts were 5-7 adults and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps from *Plantago* whereas counts were 1-2 adults and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps from filaree.
- The “Big C” was very lush with thick vegetation as well. Filaree, peppergrass, *Plantago* and winter grasses were abundant. The first slope was abundant with *Plantago* and counts were 10-15 adults and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps. A couple of other ideal slopes also abundant with *Plantago* and had counts of 10-15 adult BLH and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps. Other sweeps conducted nearby had counts averaging 5-8 adult BLH and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps.

- Surveys north of Los Gatos Road and west of Derrick had a lot of sharp shooters and non-target leafhoppers from sweeps conducted on filaree, mallow, and winter grasses. The south western slopes that had more *Plantago* had BLH counts



of 7-8 adults and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps. Counts on nearby slopes were 4-6 adult BLH and 0-2 nymphs per 10 sweeps. The nymphs were observed on the same day as the nymph in the Tumey Hills.

- The locations with higher adult BLH counts and the first observations of nymphs will be monitored more closely. The Program will conduct a winter treatment if needed and as weather permits.
- Zapatos Canyon was not surveyed due to extremely muddy road conditions. Surveys will resume once the roads are in better condition.
- Seventeen (17) host plant samples were collected and sent to the lab for virus analysis. One (1) was positive for curly top virus.
- Seventeen (17) BLH samples were collected and sent to the lab for virus analysis. Five (5) were positive for curly top virus.
- The operator I.D number for Fresno County was renewed.

Kern County

- Prior to January 18th, there were little to no winter host plants on the hill sides of

western Kern County. The rain storm that passed through the week before germinated the first host plants.

- Survey was conducted in the Buena Vista Hills toward the end of January. Filaree, peppergrass, and some *Plantago* had germinated and was widespread. BLH counts were on average 1-2 adult BLH and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps.
- The shooting range area near Taft was surveyed for BLH populations and host plant development. Filaree, peppergrass, and *Plantago* were very abundant and widespread. BLH were not observed.
- Surveys were conducted in the Kitty Care area near Petroleum Club Road and Cadet Road. Filaree and peppergrass were the predominant host plants with scattered areas of *Plantago*. Average BLH counts were 1-2 adults and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps.
- Twenty-eight (28) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. All twenty-eight (28) were negative for curly top virus.
- Ten (10) BLH samples were obtained and sent for virus analysis. One (1) was positive for curly top virus.
- The operator I.D. number for Kern County was renewed.

Kings County

- The Kettleman Hills were surveyed for BLH populations and winter host plants. The recent rainfall began allowing the emergence of vegetation. Filaree and winter grasses were predominant on the majority of the hillsides. Peppergrass is abundant in some areas. *Plantago* was observed in limited areas.
- BLH counts were on average 2-4 adults and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps.
- Within the McGlashen Ranch property, vegetation was thick and lush. Filaree and peppergrass were mixed with the winter grasses. BLH counts were low with 0-1 adult and zero nymphs per 10 sweeps.
- Five (5) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. All samples were negative for curly top virus.
- One (1) BLH sample was collected and sent for virus analysis. It was positive for curly top virus.
- The operator I.D. number was renewed for Kings County.

Merced County

- Personnel will continue to monitor BLH populations and collect both host plant and BLH samples for virus analysis.
- The operator I.D. number was renewed for Merced County.

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