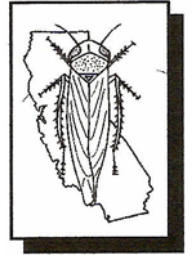


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Report for January/February
2019

Weather Outlook

- According to the NOAA predictions, the seasonal outlook between February and April 2019, shows most of California having equal chances of being above average, normal, and below average for precipitation than the last prediction model. Temperatures are about the same, still above average for winter. (Please refer to NOAA maps on the last page).
- On February 14, 2019 NOAA issued an El Nino Advisory and announced its arrival. Scientists still expect a weak El Nino that won't produce significant weather conditions. They are now forecasting a fifty-five percent chance that El Nino conditions will continue through spring.
- There were approximately seventeen days of recorded precipitation in February and the monthly rainfall average of 2.5 inches. The westside rangeland and hillsides were becoming very overgrown with winter grasses and other vegetation at the end of February. There was an abundance of BLH host plants, however, suitable BLH habitat was limited because of the overgrowth.
- It was difficult to get accurate BLH counts on days with rain, wind, and cold temperatures. Personnel observed adult BLH counts declining toward mid-February, which usually indicates a hatch will occur. In some locations, the peppergrass began to stress, confirming a BLH hatch will occur soon. Nymphs were only observed at a few survey locations during the last week of February. The nymphs should remain in the hillsides until the filaree and *Plantago* stress and dry down. Overall, BLH counts remain low.
- Updated weather information will be posted with each report until spring. Timing and the amount of rain, temperatures, and available host plants will determine BLH populations.

Website used for weather information:

- http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf
- <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-announces-arrival-of-el-nino>
- <https://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=hnx>

Fresno County

- The Coalinga Nose area had abundant host plants consisting predominately of filaree and peppergrass, and some *Plantago*. BLH counts were 5-8 adults per 10 sweeps. No nymphs have been observed. Counts declined to 0-1 adult BLH per 10 sweeps toward the end of February.
- The Big C area had similar host plant development to that in the Coalinga Nose area. BLH counts were 5-8 adults per 10 sweeps on the best south facing slopes but averaged 3 BLH throughout the area. No nymphs were observed. Non-target leafhoppers were observed in abundance.
- In Zapatos Canyon, host plants consisted of filaree and *Plantago*, and some peppergrass. BLH counts were low, with less than 1 adult per 10 sweeps. No nymphs were observed.
- In the Domengine Ranch area, filaree was predominant, but peppergrass and *Plantago* were still developing. BLH counts were low, with counts of 0-2 adult BLH per 10 sweeps. No nymphs were observed. This area had an abundance of overgrown vegetation and less than ideal BLH habitat by the end of February.
- In the Tumey Hills area, filaree was predominant, but peppergrass and *Plantago* were still developing. BLH counts were low, with counts of 0-3 adult BLH per 10 sweeps. BLH nymphs were first observed the last week of February. Nymph counts were inconsistent most likely due to the cold, windy, and rainy weather.
- Winter grasses continued to develop and were overgrown in most survey areas by the end of February.
- Program personnel will continue to monitor bee box placement.
- There were five BLH samples collected and submitted to the CDFA Plant Diagnostics Lab in Sacramento for virus analysis. All five samples were negative for curly top virus.
- There were seven host plant samples collected and submitted to the CDFA Plant Diagnostics Lab in Sacramento for virus analysis. All seven samples were negative for curly top virus.



Kings County

- McGlashan Ranch predominantly had winter grasses mixed with mallow, filaree and brassica. The south facing slopes were densely covered with filaree, peppergrass and *Plantago*, however, BLH counts were still low. BLH counts were 1-2 adults per 10 sweeps. No nymphs were observed.

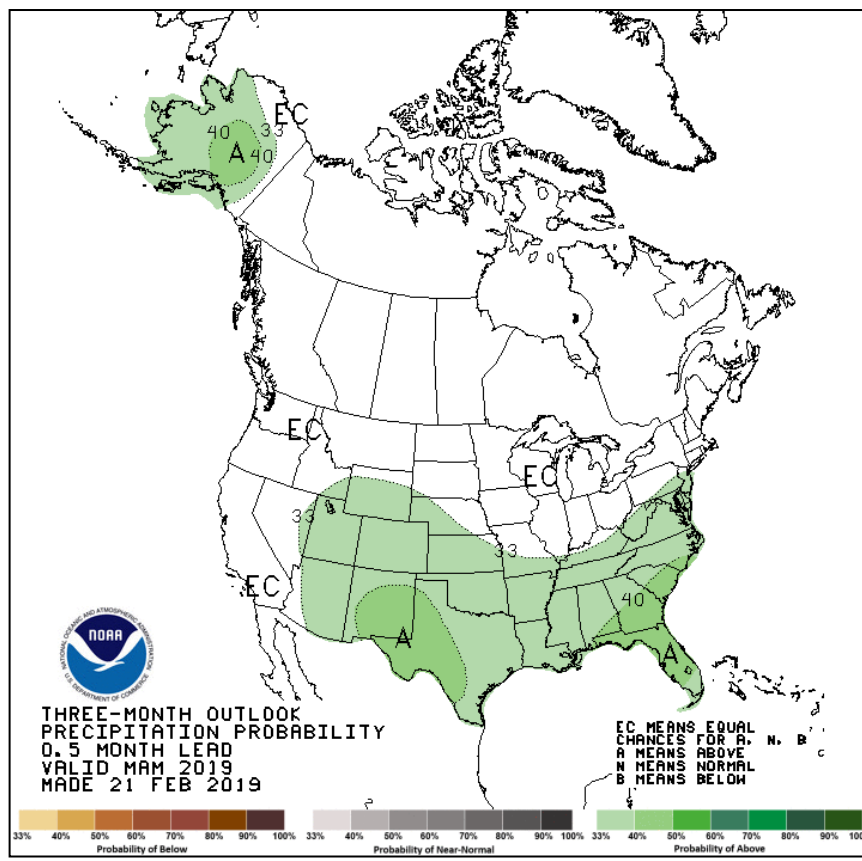
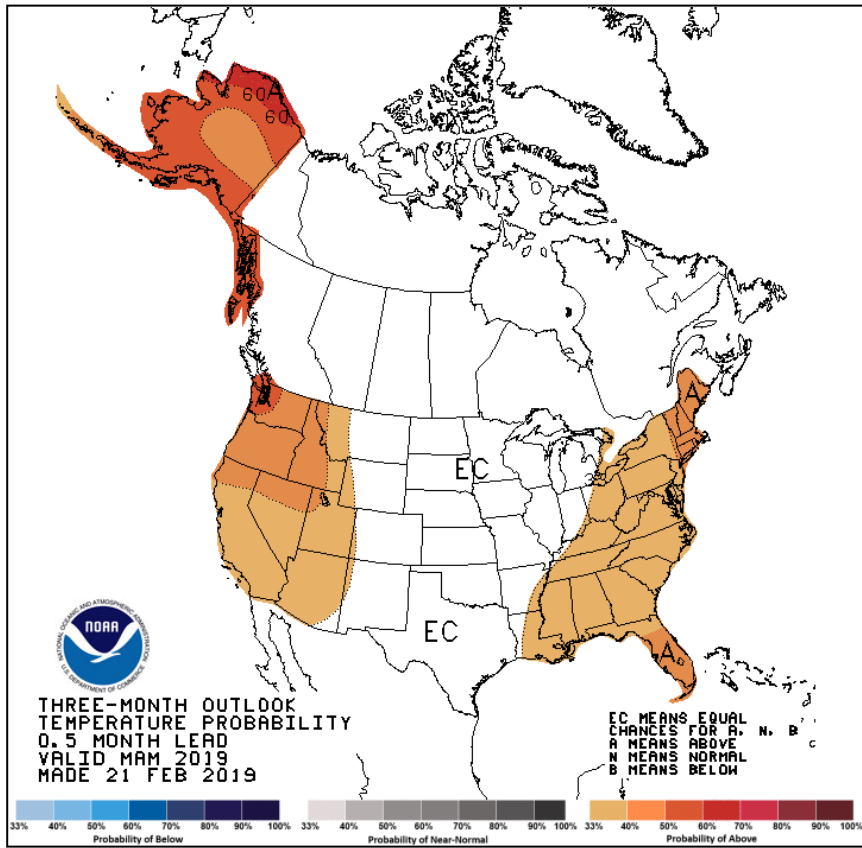
- The burned area north of Highway 41 had abundant and widespread filaree. The south facing slopes consist of filaree, peppergrass, and *Plantago*. BLH counts were 3-5 adults per 10 sweeps. As vegetation grows denser, BLH counts will decrease. No nymphs were observed.
- South of Kettleman Hills, between Devil's Den Road and west of 25th Avenue, vegetation was very dense and had limited suitable BLH habitat. BLH counts were 1-2 adults per 10 sweeps. No nymphs were observed.
- There were six BLH samples collected and submitted to the CDFA Plant Diagnostics Lab in Sacramento for virus analysis. All six samples were positive for curly top virus.
- There was one host plant sample collected and submitted to the CDFA Plant Diagnostics Lab in Sacramento for virus analysis. The sample was negative for curly top virus.

Kern County

- In January, filaree, peppergrass and *Plantago* were developing. Where filaree is predominant, BLH counts were minimal, averaging less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. In some areas, with suitable soil and a mix of host plants, BLH counts were 4 adults per 10 sweeps.
- By the end of February, the Buena Vista hills had an abundance of host plants. BLH counts were 0-4 adults per 10 sweeps. Program personnel observed nymphs in the last week of February.
- In the Elk Hills area, filaree was widespread. Some peppergrass and *Plantago* have also developed. BLH counts were 1-5 adults per 10 sweeps.
- In 36 Hills and the Kitty Care area, host plants and other vegetation was widespread toward the end of February. BLH counts were 2-3 adults per 10 sweeps. No nymphs were observed in these locations.

Stanislaus County

- Surveys in the Jensen Ranch area along the northern side of the Simon Newman Conservation property, winter grasses were predominant. There was some filaree, peppergrass and *Plantago* mixed in with the grasses on some slopes. BLH counts were low, with 0-2 adults per 10 sweeps. No nymphs were observed.
- By the end of February, winter grasses dominated the landscape and were very thick. Suitable BLH habitat was very limited. BLH counts were less than 1 adult per 10 sweeps and no nymphs were observed.



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