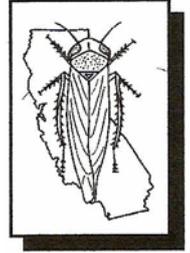


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



## ***CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM***

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Report for March 2019

### **Weather Outlook**

- On March 14, 2019 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued an El Nino Advisory stating weak El Nino conditions were still expected, with an 80% chance it will continue through the Northern Hemisphere through spring and a 60% chance of it continuing through summer.
- Based on the NOAA three-month weather outlook, the precipitation prediction model didn't change much for California since the last month. There is still an equal chance of California having above, normal, and below average precipitation. The temperature outlook changed slightly from last month, however, there is still an equal chance of having above, normal, or below average temperatures for the central and southern California.
- 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:

- [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory/ensodisc.html](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.html)
- [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/lead01/off01\\_temp.gif](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_temp.gif)
- **Although vegetation on the hillsides and rangeland was green and overgrown in most survey areas throughout March, field conditions can and often change quickly. Program personnel observed field conditions changing during the first week of April. The warmer daytime temperatures and wind began to stress and dry host plants and grasses. The Program is preparing for spring treatment, anticipating treatment to begin in Kings County, as soon as the second week of April, depending on field conditions. Vegetation has been stressing and drying at different rates based on the weather.**
- **Treatment will not take place if weather conditions are unfavorable with wind or rain anticipated.**

## Fresno County

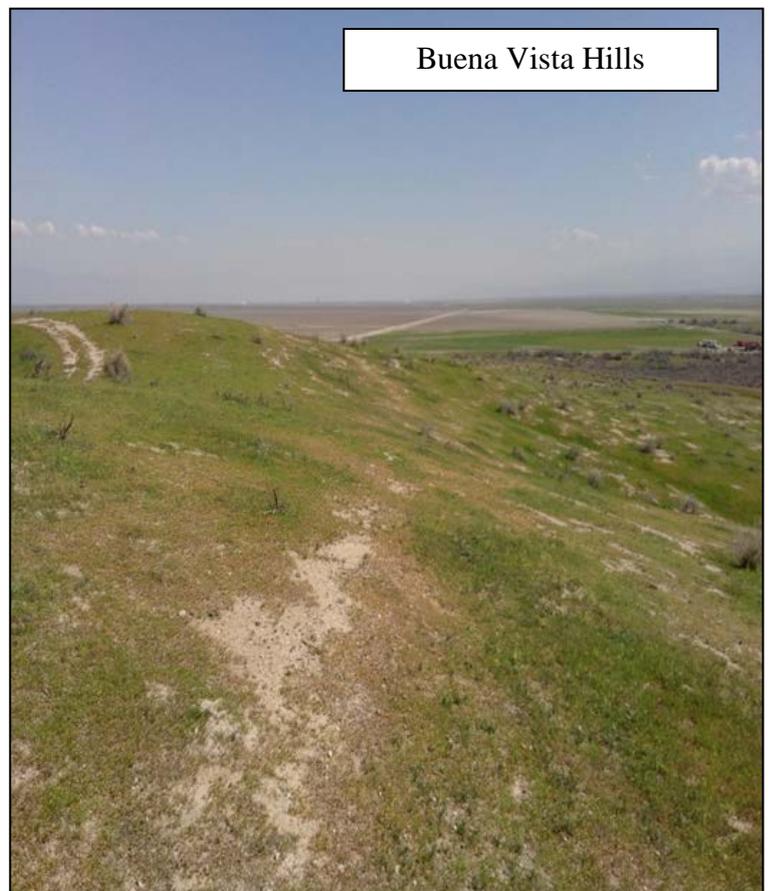
- In Tumey Hills, along the west sides there was an abundance of overgrown filaree, peppergrass, some *Plantago*, winter grasses, fiddleneck and other wildflowers. BLH counts were variable with counts of 3-4 adults and 5-7 nymphs per 10 sweeps. There were several days where the wind was too strong to conduct sweep net surveys. Aphids, thrips, and sharp-shooters were abundant. Large fallow fields along the east fence line could provide a good catch crop when the BLH migrate.
- The rangeland property along the west side of Interstate 5 from West Kamm Avenue south to Cantua Creek was surveyed mid-March. Access to the property was limited due to rain, allowing the dirt roads to dry before driving on, and wind. BLH counts were variable, depending on location within the property because of soil type and vegetation. Cantua Creek to Arroyo Hondo had minimal BLH counts, with 0-1 BLH per 10 sweeps. North of Arroyo Hondo to North of Kamm Avenue had BLH counts of 0-8 per 10 sweeps. Bee boxes were placed along Kamm Avenue and along the fence line north of Cantua Creek. Program personnel will contact bee owners and conduct a bee check with Fresno County. Sharp-shooters and thrips were observed in high numbers.
- The “Staircase” is an area east of Interstate 5 along the base of the rangeland/hillsides that sit to the west of Interstate 5. The staircase runs from West Floral Avenue south to West Harlan Avenue. The filaree and *Plantago* were still green but an abundance of peppergrass has dried up. There were also sheep grazing the vegetation. BLH counts were 2-3 adults and 4-6 nymphs per 10 sweeps. Vegetation is consistent to the rangeland property that runs the same length on the west side of Interstate 5.
- Domengine Ranch had a couple of small patches of ideal BLH habitat. The majority of the area is overgrown with winter grasses. BLH within the ideal patches were 2-6 adults and 3-5 nymphs per 10 sweeps. Peppergrass was stressed and drying. The *Plantago* was limited but still green and viable. Bees were present along the almond orchard on the northside of the property.
- The Chevron area had very little ideal BLH habitat. The property was very overgrown with annual grasses. BLH counts were 0-3 BLH per 10 sweeps.
- Krayhagen Ranch and Zapatos Canyon had very limited suitable BLH habitat due to very dense vegetation, consisting mostly of grasses and fiddleneck. There were small patches of filaree, peppergrass, and *Plantago*. BLH counts were 0-1 adult per 10 sweeps.
- A small area in the Big C near Coalinga had very little BLH activity during the first half of the month. By the end of March, BLH “hot spots” were limited but counts were 30-50 BLH nymphs and 10-15 adults per 10 sweeps in those areas. Average BLH counts for the Big C were 2-4 per 10 sweeps.
- Warthan Canyon had dense vegetation that consisted primarily of winter grasses, fiddleneck, some London rocket, and overgrown mallow. There were isolated areas of *Plantago* that had BLH counts of 3-8 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps. Aphids and sharp shooters were in abundance at time of survey.
- Los Gatos and the Coalinga Nose area had very little suitable BLH habitat. No BLH were observed.
- Roadside surveys were also conducted along Lost Hills Road west of Highway 33 near Coalinga. Other roadways surveyed were along Jane Avenue between El Dorado and Calaveras, Calaveras and Palmer, Phelps and El Dorado and through the Coalinga oil field roadways. Vegetation consisted of fiddleneck, foxtail grasses, mallow, mustard, and London rocket. No BLH were observed at time of survey.
- Host plant samples and BLH samples were sent to the CDFA Plant Diagnostics lab toward the end of March. Results will be reported next month.

## Kings County

- Devil's Den and McGlashen Ranch areas had very dense vegetation (annual grasses, mallow, and fiddleneck) which limited suitable BLH habitat. BLH counts were 0-1 adult per 10 sweeps, with occasional nymphs.
- In the Kettleman Hills, vegetation was very dense throughout the area. Peppergrass and filaree were abundant. BLH counts were less than 1 BLH per 10 sweeps for the first half of March. Toward the end of March when the peppergrass began to stress and dry up, BLH counts began to increase. BLH counts were 8-10 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps. There were also some "hot spots" with BLH counts as high as 25-30 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps.
- Personnel surveyed some fallow fields east of Kettleman City that had overgrown vegetation consisting of filaree, mallow, and London rocket.
  - Along 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between Highway 41 and Utica Avenue
  - Interstate 5 and Utica Avenue to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - Other fallow fields and roadways were surveyed along Quail Avenue, Quebec Avenue, Omaha Avenue, and Nevada Avenue west of Highway 41.
- No BLH were detected in fallow fields or roadways in March.
- The fallow fields could act as a good catch crop when the BLH migrate down from the hills. Program personnel plan to monitor those fields and roadways closely.
- Host plant and BLH samples were sent to the CDFA Plant Diagnostics lab toward the end of March. Results will be reported next month.

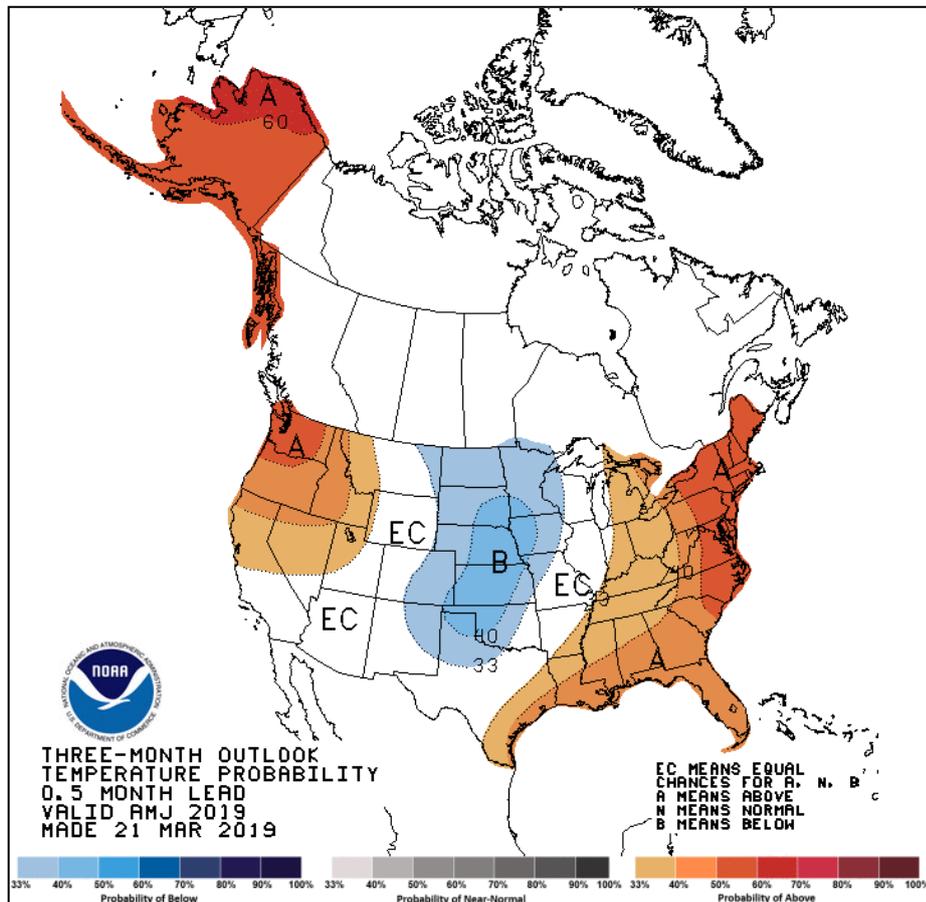
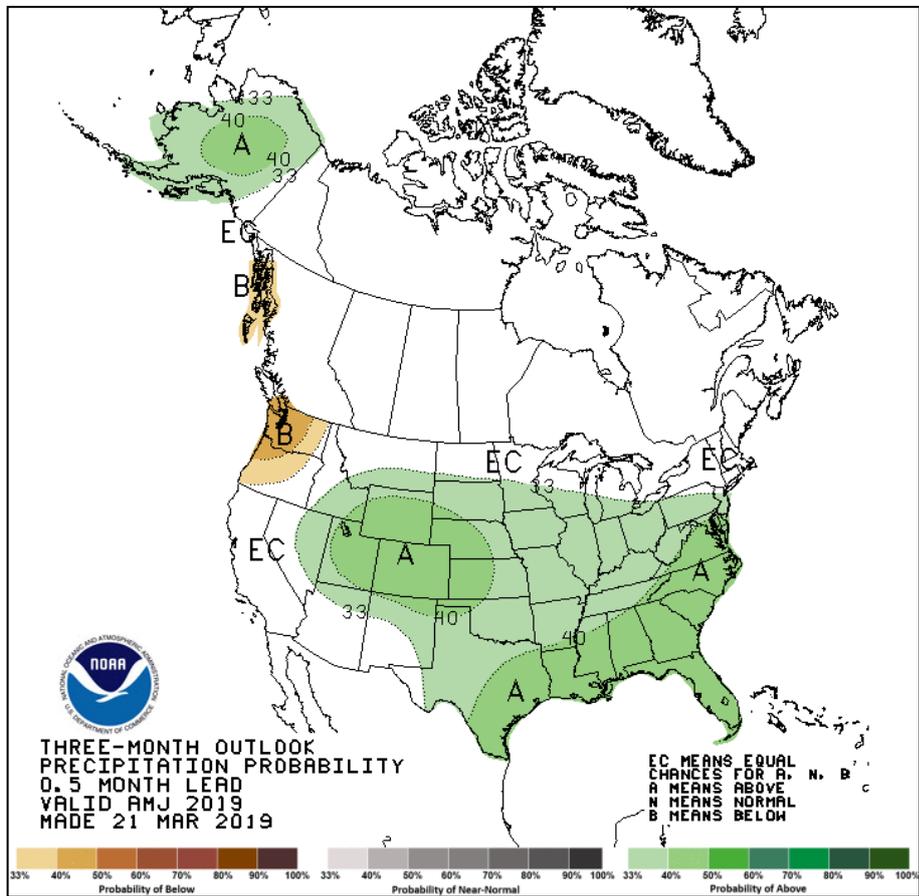
## Kern County

- Filaree, peppergrass, and *Plantago* were in abundance throughout Kern county in most of the historic survey areas. The peppergrass had stressed and most of it was dried up by the end of March. There was a small BLH hatch from the peppergrass. There could be a larger BLH hatch from the *Plantago* once it dries up. Personnel will monitor it closely.
- BLH and host plant vegetation surveys took place in Elk Horn, Western Mineral, No Names, Buena Vista Hills, 36 Hills, Kitty Care, and Devil's Den.
- In the Elk Horn area, on ideal BLH habitat on the south facing slopes, BLH counts have been as high as 30 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps in "hot spots". BLH counts on lower or flat areas were low, 0-2 BLH adults per 10 sweeps.
- In the Western Mineral area, BLH counts were less than 1 adult and nymph per 10 sweeps.
- The No Names area had overgrown vegetation. At time of survey, no BLH were observed.
- The Buena Vista Hills had a high BLH count of 30 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps where there was stressed peppergrass in a small "hot spot". Majority of the BLH in the hot spot were nymphs.



Other survey locations within the Buena Vista's had lower BLH counts of 8-12 adults and nymphs. The *Plantago* was abundant and still green. BLH counts were minimal from the *Plantago*, however, once it begins to stress and dry, the BLH population could greatly increase.

- Coles Levee and the golf course also have an abundance of *Plantago* that was green throughout March. BLH counts were minimal, however, once the *Plantago* begins to stress and dry, the BLH population could greatly increase.
- In 36 Hills, the peppergrass was just beginning to show signs of stress on hillsides, but the peppergrass in the flats was still green. BLH counts were less than 1 per 10 sweeps. No nymphs were observed at time of survey.
- Kitty Care had some suitable BLH habitat with BLH counts of 4 BLH per 10 sweeps in one "hot spot". Other areas surveyed in Kitty Care had BLH counts of less than 1 BLH per 10 sweeps.
- The portion of Devil's Den that falls into Kern County had limited suitable BLH habitat and BLH counts were 0-2 BLH per 10 sweeps.
- Host plant samples and BLH samples were sent to the CDFA Plant Diagnostics lab toward the end of March. Results will be reported next month.



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