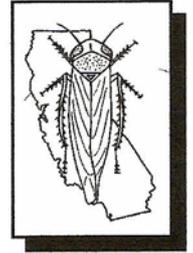


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



## **CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM**

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Monthly Report for April, 2013

The Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program began the spring aerial spray campaign on March 27, 2013 and completed treatment on April 19, 2013. Dry weather and warm temperatures occurred throughout the month, with only a couple rain systems. Those rain systems produced very little rainfall. BLH host plants continued to stress and dry out; however, they remained good habitat for the beetle leafhoppers. Strong winds began early in the month and facilitated the BLH migration to the cropland. High BLH counts remained in the rangelands during treatment, however, BLH had been observed in tomato fields the first week of April.

Wind was the main environmental factor interfering with the spray campaign efforts this spring. With winds above 5mph, treatment was put on stand by and crews waited for the wind to die down, as to minimize drift. Most of the treatment was conducted in the early morning hours before wind began to pick up; however, by mid morning on most of the days, it was too windy to treat. This caused some delay in treatment efforts. Light rain, high temperatures, and non-treatable properties due to endangered species and environmental concerns also placed delay and complications on the spray campaign.

Kill checks were conducted 48-72 hours after treatment was completed per field. BLH counts prior to treatment were on average 40-50's per 10 sweeps. BLH counts post treatment was on average 3-5 per 10 sweeps.

Tomato field surveys were conducted toward the end of the spray campaign. Majority of the plants were healthy and doing well; however, it was too early to see the symptoms of the virus. Beet Curly Top virus was observed in some tomato fields by the end of April.

### **Fresno County**

There was a total of 24,088 acres mapped as potential treatment acres. Total acres actually treated were 17,450. Due to environmental and permit restrictions, 1,567 acres were treated at 50% and 15,883 acres were treated at 100%. Ground rig treatment began on April 25<sup>th</sup>. A total of 280 acres was treated by ground in Fresno County. Ground rig treatment will continue into May.



## **Kern County**

Of the 12,367 total potential treatment acres mapped, 12,000 acres were actually treated. Due to environmental and permit restrictions, 11,072 acres of the 12,000 total acres is treated at 50% and 928 acres is treated at 100%. Ground rig treatment began on April 29<sup>th</sup> in Kern County.

## **Kings County**

Of the 12,880 acres mapped for potential treatment, 9,500 acres were actually treated. Total acreage is treated at 100%. Ground rig treatment will begin on May 6, 2013 in Kings County.

## **Fresno Facility**

Personnel performed some minor mechanical and maintenance work on the ground rig treatment trucks. Randy Collins (treatment Supervisor) and Jennifer Willems (Environmental Scientist) began meeting with growers to verify and observe Curly Top virus damage.