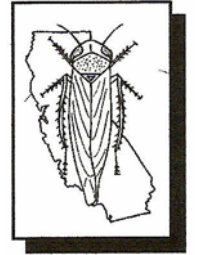


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Monthly Report for March, 2013

Fresno County

From the northern most areas down into the Coalinga Oil Fields, new hatches of BLH nymphs were observed with counts 20+ per 10 sweeps up to 70+ per 10 sweeps. Majority of nymphs were 1st and 2nd instar. Filaree and *Plantago* continued to stress due to the dry warm weather, creating optimal conditions for BLH populations to thrive.

In Narbitz, most of the filaree was beginning to stress and dry. Nymph BLH counts averaged 12-17 per 10 sweeps with 2-3 spring adults.

The areas north of Panoche Road showed stressed filaree and *Plantago*. Counts along the banks of the major washes were 50-70 nymphs per 10 sweeps on average and 20-30 on low lying areas.

Some fields in Coalinga have been identified as potential tomato sites. BCTV crews continued to monitor and identify tomato sites.

BLH counts in Tumey Hills were very high, between 30-70 nymphs per 10 sweeps. Majority of these nymphs were 2nd-3rd instar. Averages of 3-7 adult BLH per 10 sweeps were also counted.

In the Kettleman Hills, north of Hwy 41, BLH counts were very high and widespread. Hot spot counts averaged 10-15 adults and 120-150 nymphs per 10 sweeps.

BLH samples and host plant material was obtained and sent to U.C. Davis for analysis. BCTV crews mapped potential treatment areas and began to prep for the spring spray campaign. The potential treatment maps were extended as far north as possible due to the widespread high BLH counts. Fresno County had a total of 24,088 acres mapped. The spring treatment campaign began March 27, 2013 in the Tumey Hills area and North of Panoche Creek due to very dry conditions.



Kern County

Target areas of Kern County received little rainfall over the month of March. Weather remained dry, sunny and warm for the majority of the month. BLH host plants remained green until about the middle part of the month. Host plants began to dry and show signs of stress due to the lack of rainfall by the middle to end of the month. As it warmed up and the vegetation dried, BLH nymphs began to hatch. The first hatch was observed in the south west and south east target areas of Maricopa at the beginning of March, however counts remained relatively low.

The Elk Horn and Western Mineral areas averaged 2-8 adult BLH per 10 sweeps and 2-5 nymphs. Nymphs were in the 2nd-3rd instar stage. Elk Hills (Oxy Petroleum) area counts were 0-3 adult BLH per 10 sweeps due to sparse host vegetation. No nymphs were detected at the beginning of March, in the Elk Hills area.

Tomato seedlings near Hwy 166 and areas around Mettler have been observed and ground preparations continued for tomato planting.

BLH nymph hatches continued to occur as it warmed up over the month. Counts averaged 10-30 BLH nymphs per 10 sweeps, with about half being 1st and 2nd instar nymphs. *Plantago* and filaree showed signs of stress by mid month. BLH counts remained in the double digits, 10's-40's per 10 sweeps. Majority are nymphs in the 3rd-4th instar stage. Young spring adult beet leafhoppers have increased about 10% from counts at the beginning of the month.

Pre-treatment counts averaged 10-35+ BLH (50% spring adults, 50% nymphs) per 10 sweeps in the areas southwest and southeast of Maricopa, Elk Horn Grade Rd and Western Mineral. Pre-treatment counts averaged 20-30+ per 10 sweeps in the areas around Cadet Rd and Petroleum Club Rd southeast of Taft, with ~60% 3rd-4th instar BLH nymphs and ~30% young spring adults. Pre-treatment counts in the Buena Vistas along Gardner Field Rd averaged 20-30's per 10 sweeps, with ~50% young spring adults and ~40% 3rd-4th instar nymphs. In the area north of Taft along Midway Rd, pre-treatment counts averaged 20-45 per 10 sweeps, with ~50% 3rd-4th instar and ~40% 1st-2nd instar nymphs.

BLH samples and host plant material was obtained and sent to U.C. Davis for analysis. BCTV crews mapped potential treatment areas all month. Total acreage mapped for Kern County was 12,367. Kern County spring treatment campaign was scheduled for the first week of April.

Kings County

McGlashen Ranch near I-5 and Utica Ave areas continue to show stressed filaree and other host plants on the southwestern slopes. Average BLH nymph counts are 50 per 10 sweeps, with an occasional over wintering adult.

The Kettleman Hills, south of 41, had very high BLH counts. Averages for the Kettleman Hills area was 7-12 adults and 50-70 nymphs per 10 sweeps. Pre-treatment counts for this area remained about the same. Approximately, half were 3rd-4th instar BLH nymphs and half were young spring adults, 40-50+ per 10 sweeps. The spotty rainfall that occurred over the month kept most of the filaree and patchy *Plantago* from completely drying out.

BLH samples and host plant material was obtained and sent to U.C. Davis for analysis. Kings County treatment is scheduled for the week of April 8, 2013. Total acreage mapped for treatment was 12,880.

Fresno Facility

Staff continued to work on the new platform for the pressure washer. Service maintenance was performed on the washer and final touches were completed.

Four program vehicles were inspected by the auto inspector and will be surveyed.

Pesticide use permits were renewed for San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.



BCTV personnel had a pre-treatment safety meeting that discussed pesticide safety, field safety and also covered endangered species habitat. Personnel also discussed total acreages for potential treatment areas and made the necessary adjustments to treatment maps.

The program sent out a notification letter to farm advisors, PCA's and growers for Fresno, Kings, and Kern Counties informing them of the high BLH population counts and increased risk of potential infection in affected commodities.

