CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM
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Report for October-November 2019

Program-Wide Notice

- Fall host plants had limited development and were scattered throughout the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Initial potential fall treatment acreage was approximately 34,000 acres but was significantly reduced due to low Beet leafhopper (BLH) counts.

- There were three fields that had BLH counts that met the treatment threshold. Counts were 15-20 BLH per sweep. Russian thistle was the predominant host plant and was more concentrated within the three fields.
    - In Fresno County, there was one field that was 820 acres treated aerially.
    - In Kings County, there were two fields that were treated. One was 750 acres and one was 680 acres. A total of 1,430 acres were treated aerially. Wind conditions changed quickly, and treatment was stopped.
    - A total of 2,250 acres were treated aerially on October 30, 2019.

- There were two BLH samples from Fresno County and two BLH samples from Kings County collected near the end of October and sent to the Pest Diagnostics Lab in Sacramento for virus analysis. All four samples were negative for curly top virus.

- There were three host plant samples from Fresno County and three host plant samples from Kings County collected near the end of October and sent to the Pest Diagnostics Lab in Sacramento for virus analysis. All six samples were negative for curly top virus.

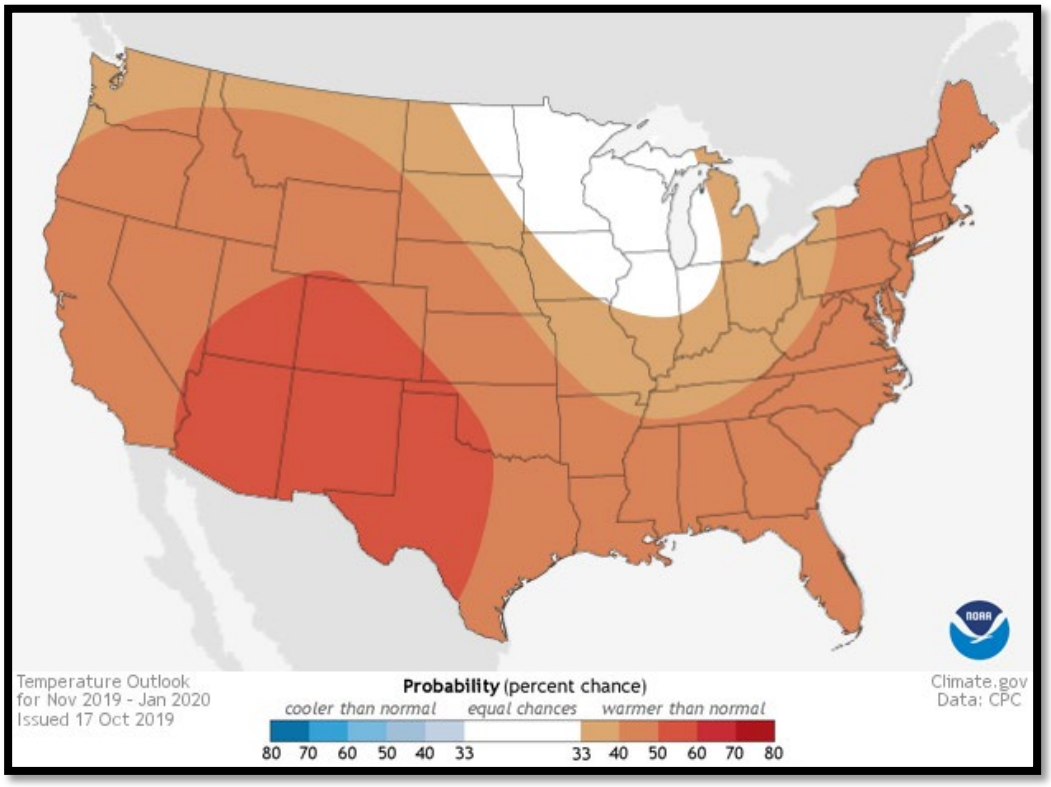
- Personnel continued to monitor the other potential treatment fields, however, BLH counts did not increase. BLH counts remained inconsistent with 3-5 BLH per sweep.

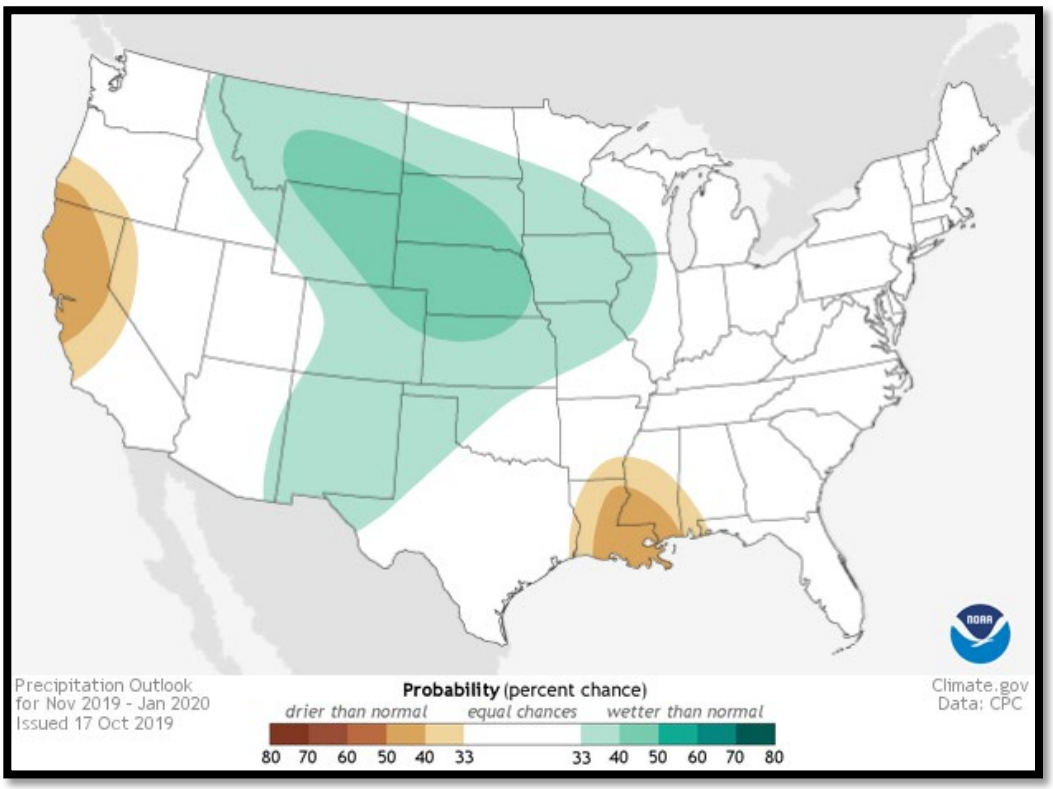
- In Kern County, fall host plants were scattered and consisted of Russian thistle, *Bassia*, and lambsquarter. BLH populations did not reach treatment threshold. BLH counts were 0-3 BLH per sweep. Treatment was not conducted in Kern County.

- The fall desert survey was conducted the first week of November. Local weather stations in Imperial and Riverside Counties reported dry conditions, with no measurable rainfall recorded since January 2019. BLH host plants were minimal and in isolated patches. BLH counts were minimal, with 0-1 adult BLH per sweep.

- BLH counts as of mid-November were minimal in Fresno, Kings and Kern Counties, with an average of 0-2 adult BLH per sweep.

- Based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) winter weather prediction models for November 2019 to January 2020, California could have a 40-50% chance of warmer than normal winter temperatures. Along with a warmer winter, NOAA predicts central California to have approximately a 33% chance of a drier than normal winter. Dry and warm winter weather could provide optimal BLH conditions, however, timing of rainfall will be a factor in host plant development and BLH population development. (See NOAA maps below or at https://www.climate.gov/maps-data/data-snapshots/precipoutlook-3month-cpc-2019-10-17?theme=Precipitation)





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