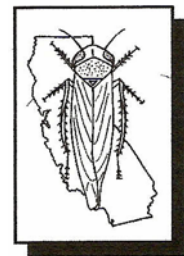


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending January 13, 2012

Fresno County

Little has changed in rangeland host plant conditions since previous surveys in the vicinity of Coalinga's Big "C" and Riffle Range. The overall conditions are very dry with very little ideal vegetation remaining for the overwintering beetle leafhopper (BLH) females to survive on. Rangeland vegetation on hillsides continues to appear stressed and dried from the lack of precipitation. In some areas, *Plantago* can be seen emerging in spite the lack of soil moisture.

Survey was also conducted thru Zapatos Canyon and portions of the Kettleman Hills. Due to the ongoing stressed host plant vegetation, there has been a noticeable decrease in both BLH and *Agallia* leafhopper populations. Less than 1 BLH per 10 sweeps was an average count in most areas.



Small, stressed filaree, Big "C" Area, Coalinga

Kern County

Beet leafhopper (BLH) activity appears stagnant in most west side locations. Continued desiccation of host plants has helped keep populations down; and recent frosty mornings may have also had some impact. Soil checks found no moisture remaining in these areas, so emergence of new vegetation appears unlikely at this time.

Surveys were conducted on some of the back canyons at Elkhorn Grade, where natural water sheds are more abundant and concentrated. In a few spots winter vegetation appeared be more vigorous and developed (particularly broadleaf and winter grasses), however, host plants were very scarce. A lack of precipitation has left much of the area unseasonably dry. BLH surveys produced no counts on the small, withering patches of filaree.

Other areas are basically unchanged from the previous week; however, host plants continue to decline. Gardner Field has lost much of the filaree on the south slope. BLH counts here, and north of Honolulu Road, remain extremely small. Until more precipitation occurs, places like Kitty Care (25 Hills) and Western Minerals will not be able to germinate (or sustain) host plants. The south slopes are generally dry and barren.

Filaree and malva continues to hold up well along many roadsides in the Taft / Maricopa area. The vegetation is not particularly dense, and has very good sun exposure. These habitat conditions appeared better suited than most places. BLH surveys, however, found only persistent light counts, ranging from 0–1 per 10 sweeps. Compared with the foothills and surrounding rangeland, there was no apparent difference in population along the roadsides.

Fresno Facility

Some BCTV staff attended a PAPA seminar to earn continuing education credits required to maintain Qualified Applicator Certificates held by Program staff.

An older Program pickup had the seat re-upholstered and work continues on replacing the old Wisconsin engine on a ground-rig.