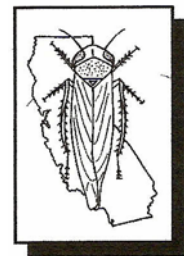


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending January 27, 2012

Kern County

The west side received from ¼ to ½ inch of rain on Monday. Elkhorn Grade and Gardner Field appeared to have fared better than most areas. Elk Hills and Reserve Valley got the lesser amount. Preliminary surveys found good soil penetration. Resurgence of filaree is beginning to occur in many places. Traces of re-greening were observed in the burned area in Reserve, and all through the No Name and 36 Hills. Beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys produced 0–2 per 10 sweeps. During the recent dry spell, most of the winter host vegetation quickly declined. Concurrent with the loss of host plants, BLH counts also diminished. This may hamper population buildup for the spring surveys. In order to enhance and preserve the present host plant conditions, more precipitation will be needed.

Surveys of the Buena Vista Hills found an average of 0.2 BLH per 10 sweeps. Small amounts of filaree have been rejuvenated by the recent precipitation. However, much of the area is still covered with remnants of brome and desiccated foxtail from the previous growing season. Malva and winter grasses appear in many low (and protected) spots – particularly inside ravines and along wash areas. Most of the upper slopes remain bare.

Kitty Care (25 Hills) has similar conditions. The incidence of host plants appears less than other locations; however, the first traces of *Plantago* were found on the south end. Overall soil conditions also appear dryer, and this may result in less germination in the long term. BLH surveys produced zero counts.

Fresno/Kings Counties

The entire San Joaquin Valley finally received some long awaited precipitation from several storms that produced about a half inch to an inch of precipitation throughout the weekend and into the week. Kettleman Hills, the Big “C”, and Zapatos Canyon were surveyed for BLH host plants and soil moisture. Much of the rangeland remains void of vegetation but there had been significant precipitation throughout the westside. Standing water could be observed along the roadsides and the terrain was generally wet. There is now sufficient soil moisture to germinate host plants in all areas of Kings and Fresno Counties.



Fresno Facility

Work continued on the spray rig conversion. The fuel tank was mounted and the pesticide tank was removed for repairs. Several plumbing parts were purchased to repair the sight gauge.

Federal Pesticide Use Permit

The Curly Top Virus Control Program received a 2-year reauthorization of our Pesticide Use Permit. During this two year period, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be preparing a new Biological Opinion for the Program. The Biological Opinion will stipulate Terms and Conditions for the reauthorization of the Pesticide Use Permit after 2014.

Staff continues to amend the Environmental Assessment (EA) to reflect the most recent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) comments. The revised EA will be the basis for USFWS's subsequent Biological Opinion and any reauthorization of future Pesticide Use Permits.