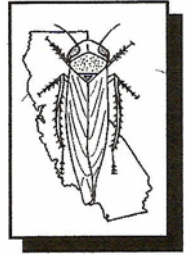


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



## **CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM**

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Weekly Report for Week Ending January 6, 2012

### **BLM Pesticide Permit Close**

CDFA staff met with the Bureau of Land Management last week to discuss the progress in reauthorizing the Program's Pesticide Use Permit (PUP). The Program was assured that the PUP process would be completed within 3-4 weeks reauthorizing a permit for two years. During this two year period, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will complete a new Biological Opinion of the Program.

### **Kern County**

The status of host vegetation in Reserve Valley has not changed noticeably over the past week or two. Surveys conducted in the No Name Hills, and the burned area, found thoroughly depleted soil moisture. Filaree on the exposed slopes appears to be more susceptible to stress and desiccation at this time. However, beet leafhopper counts continue to be light in both places. The burned area produced 0-1 per 10 sweeps. Host plants appear more densely scattered further to the west of the No Name Hills. Widespread dissemination here may be the primary factor for low counts. BLH surveys averaged 1-2 per 10 sweeps.

Host plant conditions have not improved on Gardner Field or the 25 Hills. Filaree is small and scarce, and many of the higher slopes appear barren. The vegetation is located primarily in ravines or intermittent low spots. BLH surveys found activity mainly in these low areas which are normally unfavorable for winter habitat because of dampness and colder temperatures. The adjoining Buena Vista Hills were found to have similar conditions. Surveys conducted north of Honolulu Road produced 0-1 BLH's per 10 sweeps. The *Agallia* leafhopper counts were a little higher. Gardner Field averaged about 3 BLH's per 10 sweeps.

Lack of precipitation has adversely affected the availability of host plants at Elkhorn Grade. Plant stress is becoming prominent on the west end, where most of the filaree has emerged. This is also prevalent in the middle of Elkhorn and in some lower areas. BLH surveys produced 3- 6 adults per 10 sweeps.

### **Fresno County**

BLH host plant survey was conducted in the vicinity of the Tumey Hills during the week. Rangeland conditions continue to remain very dry on the west side of the valley. Previously germinated winter vegetation is now under stress and is dying out. The slight green tinge to rangeland habitat is reversing and become brown again. Program personnel had difficulties in finding favorable areas to sweep. In the few limited areas some small remnants of filaree produced less than 0.5 BLH's per 10 sweeps. The *Agallia* leafhoppers however, continue to be found in higher numbers ranging from 8-12 per 10 sweeps.

## **Fresno Facility**

The conversion of the third spray rig over to the new Honda engine continues. The conversion is about 50 percent completed. A windshield was replaced and one was repaired on Program vehicles during the week. A forklift tire was also repaired.