

BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

2895 N. Larkin, Suite A
Fresno, CA 93727

PHONE: (559) 294-2031

FAX: (559) 294-2037

Weekly Report for Week Ending October 5, 2012

Program staff is in the process of finalizing our fall aerial spray treatment maps. Delimitation of cultivated fields continues daily as surveys are performed. Most of the waivers have been signed and returned.

Kern County

Beet leafhopper (BLH) host plant survey was conducted in the vicinity of the Lost Hills Oilfield. Russian thistle is widespread and remains the favored host plant with an average population ranging from 0 to 3 per 10 net sweeps.

The Williams Pump Station Lease and the flats, north and south off Highway 46 is experiencing an up tic in BLH counts averaging 5 to 10 per single sweep with 30% nymphs. As host plants begin to dry and lose viability, BLH's are congregating onto the remaining hospitable host plant habitat, accounting for the increase.

BLH surveys around the Lost Hills Travel Center and west along Interstate 5, encountered higher counts of 15 to 20 BLH's per single sweep. The BLH populations consist mostly of adults and an occasional nymph. Host plants appear to be reviving and showing some new top growth. The recent change to cooler weather may be contributing to the stimulation of Russian thistle.

Kings County

Survey of BLH host plants continued in mapped areas of Kings County. The roughly 10 sections of fenced off Russian thistle on Utica Avenue, east of Interstate 5, has shown increases in BLH counts. Sporadic pockets of nymphs can be found in various locations throughout the area. BLH counts are increasing north of Devils Den Road and south of Highway 41. BLH counts have increased from a few to an average of 8 to 10 per sweep.

Fresno County

Approximately 2,000 acres are all that remain of the initially mapped Russian thistle acreage between Mendota and Three Rocks. BLH counts remain high in the few remaining areas left uncultivated.