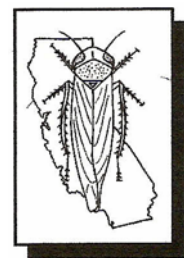


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



## **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 February 10, 2012

### **Kern County**

A brief storm came through Kern County on Tuesday, accompanied by wind and a small amount of precipitation. The east side received the most rain, measuring about 1/4 inch total. Less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of an inch fell on the west side. Some areas, such as Elkhorn Grade and Western Minerals, received only trace amounts. It appears that any subsequent benefit to winter vegetation from rain may have been nullified by persistent winds. Host plants have not increased in scope or size, generally remaining small and scattered throughout the west side. Beet leafhopper (BLH) activity remains static, and counts are still low. No real changes have occurred since previous week.

At Gardner Field, BLH surveys produced 1–3 adults per 10 sweeps. Filaree on south facing slopes is stressed, spotty, and concentrated along the lower regions. The upper hillsides remain dry and barren of new vegetation. Precipitation was extremely sparse through this area. The survey also produced one nymph at 3<sup>rd</sup> instar.

Elkhorn Grade and Reserve Valley continue to dry out as well. BLH counts are low in most places. The burned area and No Name Hills had 0–2 adults per 10 sweeps. In the Triple Five Hills, on the west end of Reserve Valley, produced 8 adults in 10 net sweeps. However, this was the only exception. Host plants are generally scarce throughout the area.

So far, sheep grazing is limited to fallow fields and low-lying rangeland, where vegetation is more readily available. Traditional areas, such as the Buena Vista Hills, Elkhorn Grade, and Reserve Valley are currently abandoned for lack of winter forage.

### **Fresno County**

Overall conditions on the westside of Fresno County remain dry and the rangeland vegetation is small and sparse. BLH counts continue to be low averaging 1-2 adults per 10 sweeps. Rangeland habitat continues to appear as it does in mid to late summer, dried and withered. A small storm did make its way through this week resulting in high winds but only traces of scattered precipitation.

Host plant survey was performed on the Domengine Ranch. Filaree, the dominate host vegetation, was found to be small and sparse. BLH counts averaged

Rangeland in Domengine Ranch,  
Fresno County



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1.5 adults per 10 sweeps with no nymphs. Contact was made with the Zwang Ranch manager regarding the combination to the new electronic gate. The Zwang Ranch is very woolly with last years' dead grasses. Sweeps in this area produced 1.5 adults per 10 sweeps. Host plant survey in the Tumey Hills found small, sparse filaree in the low lying areas and flats. BLH counts averaged less than 1 adult per 10 sweeps with no nymphs.

### **Fresno Facility**

Work continued on the remodeled spray-rig. The cab of the pickup was wired to accept the ignition for the new Honda engine and several unions were installed in the plumbing system to make repairs easier in the future.