

# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



## ***CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM***

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Weekly Report for Week Ending February 17, 2012

### **Kern County**

Monday was cold and windy. A series of brief rain events occurred on the west side during the day, amounting to less than 1/4 inch in most areas. It appears that more precipitation fell on the east side and nearby mountain passes; however the amounts were relatively light overall. As rain persisted, an extended survey was conducted around Tehachapi and portions of the Antelope Valley. Filaree and malva were abundant along many roadsides, especially where moisture was sufficient. Traces of new germination could also be seen on abandoned farm land and across much of the surrounding desert region. While host plants continue to develop in the Antelope Valley, the potential for beet leafhopper (BLH) activity becomes more likely. Habitat conditions generally become favorable when warmer weather arrives.



On the west side of Kern County, weather conditions throughout this week were unstable. More precipitation occurred mid-week, accompanied by wind and cooler temperatures. The rain was not consistent in any particular area. Standing water could be found occasionally, generally along roadsides and a few other low spots. Other places remained relatively dry. Total accumulation of rain was about 1/10 inch.

Winter vegetation is beginning to emerge on many formerly barren hillsides near Taft and Maricopa. In some places the soil is saturated, and penetration appears to be about a half inch or more. A subsequent survey of the No Name Hills found traces of new growth, mainly along the lower regions. There was also a resurgence of filaree occurring on the nearby burned area, and south along the 36 Hills. Conditions remain dry further to the west in the vicinity of the Triple Five Hills.

## **Fresno County**

Host plant survey was performed in the Tumey hills. Rangeland host plant development has not changed much since the last survey. Rangeland vegetation is small and sparse. BLH counts remain low averaging 1 per 10 net sweeps in most areas. Considerably more *Agallia* leafhoppers are present on host plants than BLH's. Recent rains have done little to boost soil moisture.

## **Fresno Facility**

The engine replacement on the last ground-rig has been completed.