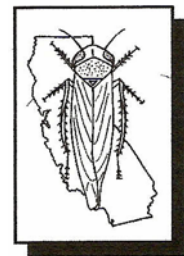


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



## **CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM**

2895 N. Larkin, Suite A

Fresno, CA 93727

PHONE: (559) 294-2031

FAX: (559) 294-2037

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Weekly Report for Week Ending February 3, 2012

### **Kern County**

Winter vegetation appears limited on most west side locations. Recent precipitation resulted in some resurgence, but overall conditions indicate that more will be needed. The south-facing slopes remain dry and barren. A few host plants can be found along the lower regions of the hills. The filaree is tiny, sparse, and found where precipitation puddled. Low areas, shaded ravines, and water ways appeared to have benefited the most from the last rain. No mustards, sunflower, or London rocket has emerged in any of the locations surveyed.

Beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys on filaree do not indicated any increases in population. At Gardner field, counts averaged 0.5 per 10 sweeps. Surveys are also picking up a few *Agallia* leafhoppers. In Reserve Valley, the BLH counts remain light. The burned area, near the No Name Hills, produced a high count of 2 per 10 sweeps. Toward the west end, however, the counts diminish. Surveys throughout the Triple Five Hills averaged less than 1 BLH per 10 sweeps representative of counts in most areas. Low counts can probably be attributed to the overall lack of viable host plants.

Roadsides continue to appear moist and verdant. Runoff from rain water has helped replenish plant vigor and continued escalation. BLH surveys produced counts that ranged from 0–2 on patchy filaree. Several fields near Mettler and Buttonwillow have been bedded up recently for eventual transplanting.

### **Kings County**

Host plant survey was conducted in the general vicinity of Devils Den between the Kern County line and Highway 41, west of Interstate 5. Rangeland vegetation consists mainly of grass at this time. The vegetation is scarce in this area with only small filaree and some one inch tall *Plantago*. The first BLH nymphs of the season were found on some patch filaree. Nymphs this early in the year are very unusual. The BLH's may have been responding to the unseasonable drying and stressed host plant conditions which resemble late spring rather than winter. An average of 3-4 nymphs and 1 adult per 10 sweeps was found with a high of 10 nymphs. A majority of the BLH nymphs were 2<sup>nd</sup> instar.

There are still a few puddles along the roadsides in the hills from the most recent storm. A slight chance of rain is forecast for next week.

### **Fresno Facility**

Work continued on the converted ground-rig. The plumbing and main shut-off valve was relocated to an area with better access and the fuel take was mounted.