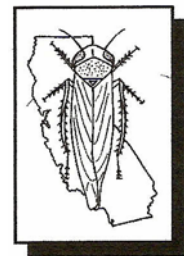


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



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 March 16, 2012

Kern County

Conducted surveys in the Cuyama Valley this week. Roadside filaree, malva, and mustard appear frequently, and can be found in the general vicinity of Foothill Road and along portions of Hwy 33. Beet leafhopper (BLH) counts averaged 2 adults per 10 sweeps on ground filaree, and zero on mustard. Soil moisture continues to be adequate from earlier precipitation, and host plants appear hardy. Most fields are clean, and some are in preparation for planting. A new field of squash was observed along Hwy 33.

Sparse, small patches of filaree were checked in the No Name/36 Hills along dusty access roads, ravines and occasional flat spots. BLH surveys averaged 0 to 3 adults in 10 net sweeps. A couple of 2nd and 3rd instar nymphs were also picked up in the net. These particular spots represent the only tangible host plant available. Similar conditions continue further west into the Triple Five Hills, and to the shooting range on the far end of Reserve Valley. The only difference is that BLH counts appear slightly higher in this area. Surveys on sparse, dwindled filaree produced a range of 3 to 8 adults, plus an average of 1 large nymph per 10 sweeps. It appears the absence of ample vegetation has caused the BLH to concentrate in these small areas.

What little host vegetation that remains at Gardner Field and Elkhorn Grade is currently the last vestige for the BLH. In these two areas, BLH counts range from 0 to 5 in 10 sweeps on stressed filaree. Rangeland vegetation in Kitty Care and Western Minerals is completely desiccated.

Kings County

Survey was conducted from Devils Den, north through the Kettleman Hills. The Kettleman Hills are totally dried up and no host vegetation exists from Devils Den to the north tip of the Kettleman Hills and into Zapatos Canyon.

Fresno County

Survey conditions were a little windy during the week making it difficult to survey, particularly in the afternoons. Survey was conducted in the vicinity of the Alcalde Ranch and the Big "C" during the week. Even though there is sufficient host plant growth in these areas, the BLH counts remain very low. Less than one BLH per 10 net sweeps was found in the Alcalde Ranch and the Big "C".

Filaree was found developing on the flats and ravines in the Narbaitz Ranch. BLH counts are still low averaging 2-3 spring adults per 10 sweeps. The Tumey Hills are dry and void of any host vegetation. Roadside survey found a small population of spring adults on London Rocket, less than one per 10 sweeps in the best locations. Roadside vegetation consist of a mixture of mustards, fiddle neck, mallow, and London rocket. Growers have begun transplanting tomatoes.