

BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending March 30, 2012

Kern County

Between 0.25 and 0.82 inch of rain fell in parts of Kern County over the weekend. Taft and Maricopa received the lightest amounts, averaging 0.30 inches. Gardner Field and the Buena Vista (BV) Hills are areas that appeared to benefit most. Host plants can be found on the upper south-facing slopes, along edges of access roads, and inside ravines and creeks. Filaree is patchy and widespread, competing with a small proliferation of other winter grasses. Overall, soil moisture appeared adequate in both places, and may provide short-term sustainability. Kitty Care, Western Minerals, and Elkhorn Grade are also showing new emergence of filaree; however, it is very limited in scope at this time. Most of the winter vegetation, including malva and foxtail, is equally interspersed with remnants of old brome and other desiccated plants.

Beet leafhopper (BLH) activity remains persistently low. Surveys conducted on Gardner Field produced a range of 1– 4 adults, plus an occasional large nymph, per 10 sweeps. Most of the population was found on the upper slopes with the best sun exposure. The BV Hills had counts that were smaller, and averaged about 1 adult per 10. One particular area, north of Honolulu Road, had a high count of 5 adults in 10 sweeps. Surveys at Elkhorn Grade produced 0–3 adults, plus an occasional 3rd instar nymph.

Reserve Valley may have received the most rain. Soil checks early in the week found moisture down several inches on the west end. Small patches of filaree were found on the tops of south-facing slopes where BLH surveys appeared to be most productive. Although counts were not high, the numbers ranged from 0–2 adults, and 0–2 nymphs, per 10 sweeps. It was noted that the flat expanse of Reserve Valley, located between hill ranges, acquired abundant new vegetation including filaree, foxtail, and occasional London Rocket. Fiddleneck, lupine, and a few other wildflowers have also begun to emerge. Because of higher plant density in this region, less favorable climate in low places, BLH activity was very minimal.

Runoff from precipitation was beneficial in other areas as well. Most of the roadsides around Taft and Maricopa have ample winter vegetation. Surveys of Filaree along Southlake Road averaged 1 adult per 10 sweeps. A few small nymphs were found in one spot. Host vegetation appears to be developing very quickly at this late date. BLH populations, however, remain small.

Fresno County

Spotty showers and muddy conditions lingered during the first part of the week on the westside of the San Joaquin Valley due to a weekend storm system. With this additional rain, the current rangeland vegetation development is reminiscent of conditions in November in a normal year. An additional storm is expected at the end of the week and into the weekend. It is yet to be determined if the latest rainfall will allow the BLH population to grow in rangeland habitat.

The monitoring of rangeland host vegetation will continue until the vegetation dries completely. At this point, a large spring treatment campaign is not expected due to the persistently low BLH counts.

Host plant and BLH survey during the week was delayed in some areas due to windy and wet conditions. Roadside host plants such as mustards, London rocket, fiddle neck, and mallow are sparse due to weed control efforts by growers. Roadside BLH counts remain low averaging 1-2 spring adults per 10 sweeps.

Fresno Facility

Staff from the IT division in Sacramento came to Fresno during the week and took inventory of our computers, printers, scanners and cell phones.

Smog checks on all Program vehicles that were due this year have been completed.