

BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending April 20, 2012

Kern County

Survey of Elkhorn Grade found ample soil moisture from recent storms with the west end and middle portion benefiting most. Host plants in this area remain vigorous and spotty, and late spring grasses have proliferated on much of the low lands. However; the effect of rain rapidly diminished, leaving much of this area desolate and bare. Beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys produced 0–1 adult per 10 sweeps on filaree and zero counts were found on *Plantago*.

There has been little change on the slopes. However, a check of service roads in Elkhorn found BLH counts increasing slightly. Surveys produced 1–5 adults along portions of the main road, which appears incremental to the decline found in other places. The increase on roadsides may indicate a migration from the desiccated slopes to more favorable host plants.

Vegetation at Kitty Care has not advanced since the passage of storms. The south-facing slopes appear desolate, replete with vestiges of desiccated filaree and *Plantago*; sole remnants of a previous germination. Conditions at Western Minerals are similar; however, much of the area has also been cleared for oil field development and pipeline construction. At this time, it appears unlikely that BLH activity will occur in either of these locations.

BLH counts in the Reserve Valley continue to decline. Surveys produced less than 1 adult per 10 sweeps. It appears that prevailing low counts may be due to the increased development of filaree which now affords a wider dispersal. Where plants are most prolific, such as the burned area on the east end, no BLH's could be found.

Some Program staff attended an ATV safety training course in Shafter on Monday.

Fresno County

Survey on the west side of the valley found evidence of significant precipitation from recent storms. There was standing water in some places and evidence of water running down the dirt roads. Even though more vegetation is beginning to develop since recent rains, BLH counts do not appear to be increasing.

The Kettleman Hills remain dry and void of significant host plants. BLH counts remain low. Zapatos Canyon has conditions similar to the Kettleman Hills. It does not appear that treatments will be needed in either of these areas.

In the Big Panoche area, just north of the creek, filaree and *Plantago* can be found on some south facing slopes and filaree in some of the flats. BLH counts averaged less than one per 10 sweeps. The *Plantago* and filaree have just recently sprouted and are only about 1 inch tall. Continued hot weather should stress and dry this new vegetation quickly.

Survey through the Tumey Hills found scattered small *Plantago* and filaree sprouting on some south facing slopes with BLH counts averaging less than 1 per 10 sweeps. Approximately 400 acres of Russian thistle was observed developing on the north end of the hills. The Russian thistle was small but very healthy and had pretty high counts on it. An average of 10 BLH's per 10 sweeps with a high of 23. Staff will continue monitoring these areas closely.

Fresno Facility

The Multi-Year Aerial Treatment Tables for frequency of BLM surface treatments was completed.