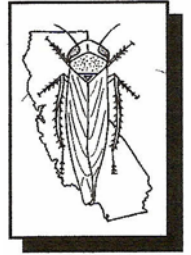


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending April 27, 2012

Kern County

Survey of the east side of Kern County found conditions good for propagation of host plants. Soil moisture is adequate in most areas; however, roadsides appear particularly verdant at this time. Wild mustard, filaree, malva and other plants were checked for beet leafhopper (BLH) populations. Random surveys produced less than 1 adult per 10 sweeps along Rancho Road, and similarly low BLH counts on Laval Road. BLH survey of fallow fields in the vicinity of Tejon Ranch found no BLH's on newly emerged Russian thistle.

Dense populations of small thistle can be found in the Lost Hills oil fields and on the flats west of town. Plant vigor appears hardy, despite depleted soil moisture throughout the area. BLH surveys produced no counts on thistle, however an occasional adult was found on filaree. Kernridge has similar circumstances, so far as moisture and BLH counts. The development of Russian thistle appears sluggish and the remnants of desiccated old mustard, foxtail and tumbleweed still dominate the area. Much of the viable vegetation in Kernridge is currently found along the access roads, and around pumping units.

Roadside vegetation on much of the west side consists of mustard, filaree and assorted fiddleneck, foxtail, and patches of small Russian thistle. BLH counts range from 0–3 adults per 10 sweeps. The current host plant density may influence the low numbers currently found. Surveys of surrounding hillsides found the effects of hot weather increasingly evident, leaving some areas more desiccated and uninhabitable. As a result, roadside host plants may become more desirable.

Staff renewed Operator ID for both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties for 2012.

Fresno County

Host plant and BLH survey in Warthan Canyon found the host plant distribution comprised mostly of filaree with a small amount of *Plantago* sprinkled along the south facing slopes. Some of the filaree was starting to show some signs of stress; however, most of it is still green and viable. The broom is starting to stress and turn red. BLH counts remain low averaging 1-2 per 10 sweeps. The vast majority of BLH's were spring adults, very few nymphs were observed.

Survey in the Big "C" and Rifle Range areas produced results similar to Warthan Canyon. Host plant vegetation was pretty much the same and the BLH counts were slightly lower. The ratio between spring adults and nymphs was the same as in Warthan Canyon.

Survey in the Zwayng Ranch found filaree to be the dominant host plant although some *Plantago* could be found on some of the south facing slopes. BLH counts averaged less than 1 BLH per 10 sweeps. Most all were spring adults with very few nymphs found. Russian thistle is beginning to emerge and become more noticeable in this area.

On the Coalinga Nose host plant conditions were similar to the Zwayng Ranch. Very few BLH's were observed. Filaree is the dominate host plant, but there is a lot of Russian thistle emerging. A much wider distribution and density of Russian thistle is being observed this year in the hills and flats of most treatment areas. BLH counts appeared to have decreased in most areas, possibly due to recent rains and additional host plant germination.

The east side of Interstate 5, from Manning Avenue to Three Rocks was surveyed for Russian thistle. There is a lot of thistle in the traditional fallow fields along the power lines. BLH counts in these areas averaged 3 per 10 in the best field.