

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 May 4, 2012

Kern County

Most of the vegetation in Reserve Valley has reverted to stunted foxtail and an abundance of dried up winter annuals. A few small and stressed patches of filaree can still be found on the slopes of the No Name and Triple Five Hills; however, beetle leafhopper (BLH) activity is very limited. Surveys in both places produced less than 1 adult per 10 sweeps. On the west end of the 36 Hills, a high count of 2 adults and 4 nymphs was found. Overall, there does not appear to be much good vegetation left to hold them.

A similar situation has occurred in the vicinity of Gardner Field and the Buena Vista Hills. BLH counts on spotty filaree averaged less than 1 per 10 sweeps. Some areas had no counts. Host plant conditions throughout this region have deteriorated with the loss of soil moisture and increasingly warmer day-time temperatures.

Vegetation on roadsides are holding up well. BLH surveys conducted along Golf Course Road produced 0–3 adults on assorted filaree and mustard. The count also included an occasional large nymph (3rd instar). Southlake and Gardner Field Roads averaged 2 + adults. Considering the density of vegetation on some roadsides, actual and overall counts may appear a little low.

Early tomato crops near Mettler appear to have excellent canopy and good vigor. There were no symptoms of BCTV observed at this time. Sheep have recently been moved onto several areas of traditional summer host plants.

Fresno County

It appears that there will be no need for aerial treatment of BLH populations this spring as the BLH counts remain low and scattered on stressing, sparse filaree and newly emerged Russian thistle. BLH counts remain low and the normal spring host vegetation is stressed and drying. Peppergrass and *Plantago* germination was absent this spring which is normally significant reproductive host plants. Filaree was the only host plant available to the BLH this year and it came up late and was limited in distribution. BLH populations never increased above the overwintering population levels.

Survey in the Kettleman Hills during the week found very little host plant vegetation. Some sparse, stressed filaree and a sprinkle of *Plantago* were found in one small area just north of Highway 41. BLH counts averaged less than 1 per 10 sweeps. Russian thistle is coming up in the hills and emerging this year in areas not usually observed in normal years. It appears that the small BLH population is migrating from filaree to Russian thistle.

Survey in the Big "C" and Warthan Canyon found viable filaree although BLH counts remain very low. Further survey and monitoring of these areas will be required until the filaree dries completely. Roadside survey and treatment if necessary will be conducted in Fresno and Kings Counties in the near future. There is a lot of Russian thistle beginning to emerge in the flats and the hills. With the noticeable increase in Russian thistle germination this year, the Program may have an increase in Russian thistle acreage for the fall treatment campaign.

Program staff conducted host plant and BLH survey through the Coalinga Nose, the Big "C", Swangs, Domengine Ranch, and the hills in near Interstate 5 and Highway 198. In some areas, BLH's are beginning to migrate short distances into roadside weeds, but some remain in the freshly emerging Russian thistle. BLH counts remain low on roadsides and in Russian thistle.

Survey of several west side tomato fields appear to be growing well, with no signs of any BCTV symptoms.