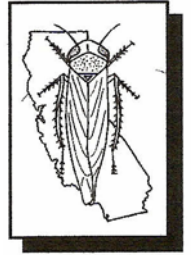


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending May 11, 2012

Kern County

Increasingly warm temperatures have shriveled host vegetation on hillsides in the Reserve Valley. The No Name and 36 Hills are desolate; and filaree is rapidly deteriorating in the burn area on the east end. Surveys of current beetle leafhopper (BLH) populations averaged about 1 per every 10 sweeps inside the burned area, and zero on the barren slopes of the No Name and 36 Hills. Other areas, such as Elkhorn Grade and Gardner Field, also show a diminishing BLH activity and available host plants. Because of the persistence of dry weather and high temperatures, a resurgence of BLH populations does not appear likely.

A few fallow fields are currently being disked on Southlake Road. The loss of viable host plants will probably push the remaining BLH to roadside vegetation. Recent surveys along Southlake Road, and other areas around Taft and Maricopa, produced 0–4 per 10 sweeps. Surveys also picked up several nymphs. In some places, fair amounts of filaree, mustard, and Russian thistle can be found. On the north side, toward Lost Hills, host plant conditions remain similar. BLH counts on Holloway and Lost Hills Road ranged from 0–3 adults per 10 sweeps.

Staff began ground spraying on roadsides in Lost Hills on Thursday. The surrounding rangeland vegetation has dried, and conditions appear optimal for treatment. Anticipate ground spraying near Taft/Maricopa next week.

Melons near Buttonwillow are in varying stages of development. In some places, runners have fully extended into the row. Survey of crops near Mettler found tomatoes and peppers well established and hardy.

Fresno County

BLH populations remain low and it is unlikely that aerial treatments will be warranted this spring. A dramatic increase in temperatures has stressed and dried spring host plants in most westside habitat and accelerated the widespread development of Russian thistle. The BLH population remains low and scattered on the developing Russian thistle and a mix of host plants on some roadsides. The presence of Russian thistle should be attractive and slow the migration of leafhoppers from rangeland to susceptible crops.

Continued survey was performed in the Big "C" and Warthan Canyon where low BLH counts were found to be less than a 1 per 10 sweep average. The filaree has dried up in most areas and what little is left, is not producing many nymphs. Nymphs were observed hatching in a very small patch of cheese weed in the Chevron area. The use of cheese weed is uncommon.

Beet Curly Top Virus symptoms were not seen in a sampling of tomato fields during the week.

Fresno Facility

Maps displaying critical habitat units and survey boundaries were created for the Environmental Assessment. This included various counties throughout the San Joaquin Valley, south/central coastal region, plus southern California.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Critical Habitat online portal was used to find and downloading spatial data files. Critical habitat files (shape files) were converted into MapInfo (tab files) by utilizing MapInfo's Universal Translator tool.