

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 June 1, 2012

Kern County

Dry conditions are prevalent throughout Kern County, affecting host plants and most other vegetation. Roadsides around Taft and Maricopa have begun to stress, and surrounding hillsides are withered and bare. Sheep grazing appears confined mainly to desiccated rangeland and fallow fields; generally where Russian thistle, curly dock, old foxtail, remnants of filaree and mustards are found. Several open fields have also been disked along Southlake Road, eliminating a few potential host plant sites.

Beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys on existing Russian thistle produced consistently low counts. One spot east of Taft had no counts. Oil field property along Pentland Road averaged 0.3 adults per single sweep on sparse young Russian thistle. Along the edge of the old OPC fields, BLH counts also remain small. Overall, BLH activity and development of summer host plants appeared very sporadic.

BLH surveys were also conducted in the oil fields at Kernridge and Lost Hills. Old remnants of foxtail and mustard still dominate at Kernridge; however, abundant new Russian thistle has emerged on portions of the property. It is still too early to determine what the outcome will be, especially on the east and west ends, where a small amount of plant stress has begun to occur. Similar circumstances were found in Lost Hills. Dry conditions in both places may hinder long-term development of summer host plants. BLH surveys produced 0.8 adults per single sweep at Kernridge, 1-3 average at Lost Hills and 0.5 average per sweep on the Flats west of Lost Hills.

Fresno County

Program staff resumed ground-rig spot treatments on the westside of Fresno County. Windy conditions hampered treatments at times during the week and repairs were necessary on one of the spray rigs. An additional 160 acres of roadsides were treated in Fresno County totaling 225 acres in Fresno County for the month of May.

Very few BCTV symptoms have been observed in susceptible host crops on the westside. Russian thistle is prevalent and continues to develop in many areas. In addition to Russian thistle, several other summer host plants are developing in isolated areas such as goosefoot, London rocket and mustards.

BLH counts have been found to be higher on isolated goosefoot than any other host plant averaging 6-8 per single sweep.

Fresno Facility

The ground rig used in Kern County was cleaned and taken back to the Fresno facility. Also, one Shafter program vehicle was inspected this week, and tagged for eventual survey.

A pest control seminar was attended by staff this week as a continuing education requirement for staff maintaining a Qualified Applicator Certificate.