

BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending June 15, 2012

Kern County

Rangeland Russian thistle appears pre-maturely stressed at this time due to persistent hot weather and dry soil conditions. Russian thistle is stunted, and synthetic breakdown is starting to occur in some places. On the flats, west of Lost Hills, extensive sheep grazing has also been a factor. As a consequence, current grazing activities have been limited to smaller, concentrated areas which have left Russian thistle lacking vitality. Random surveys produced only 0–0.7 beet leafhopper (BLH) counts per single sweep. Approximately half were nymphs of assorted instars.

Some areas, such as the oil fields in Lost Hills and Kernridge, still maintain hardy host plants with good vigor and potential. However, like other places, continuing hot weather may affect long-term viability. Fallowed fields also exhibit good development of summer Russian thistle. Several fields have already been disked on the north and east sides of Lost Hills; and also along Hwy 33 near Kernridge. BLH counts were low averaging 0.5 adults per sweep at Kernridge, and 0.3 in the Lost Hills unit.

Near Taft and Maricopa, surveys found ample new growth of Russian thistle occurring in several recently disked fields. On the abandoned OPC property, summer host plants were abundant, and appear strong and enduring. A few stands of young *Bassia* were also found. However, most of these plants were found in small patches near the edge of the road. BLH surveys produced no counts on either *Bassia* or Russian thistle. Another field of Russian thistle, located on Southlake Road, had less than a 1.0 BLH per sweep average.

Monterey County

Host plant and crop survey was performed in the Salinas Valley during the week. Survey efforts were assisted by the Agricultural Commissioners office in King City who provided Program staff with a new ranch map and locations of susceptible host crops. There were more pepper fields than tomato plantings. Both tomato and pepper fields looked in good growing condition with no symptoms of beet curly top virus (BCTV).

Roadside host plants this year consisted mostly of mustards and small amounts of Russian thistle. BLH counts on roadside host plants were very low averaging 1 per 20 sweeps on Russian thistle and slightly less on mustards. Road crews were observed mowing roadside vegetation on some of the county roads in the area. The Agricultural Commissioners office in King City said that the only grower complaints in the area were concerning larger than normal grasshopper populations.

Several fields and roadsides were checked in the Hollister area on the return trip to Fresno. No BLH's were found in roadside mustards and the tomato plantings in the area appeared in good health with no BCTV symptoms.

Fresno and Kings Counties

The treatment of roadside host plants in Fresno County resumed during the week. Approximately 200 acres of roadsides were treated in the vicinity of the Coalinga oil fields and 80 acres were treated in the vicinity of Interstate 5 and Utica Avenues in Kings County. Ground-rig spot treatments will continue in Kings County next week.