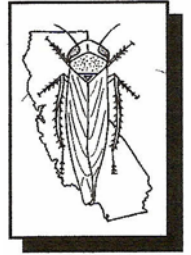


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



## **CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM**

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Weekly Report for Week Ending June 22, 2012

### **Kern County**

The Kern Water Bank is essentially dry. Surveys found abundant Russian thistle inside many drained storage basins, particularly on the east end, mixed with occasional patches of five-hook *Bassia* and mustard. However, hot weather, combined with extensive livestock grazing, has left a large portion of the Russian thistle thinned and stunted. A few areas appeared to have been mowed recently, helping further the decline. Lamb's quarter could be found also, confined mostly to the low areas, and usually interspersed with sunflowers and other non-host plants.

Beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys averaged 0.5 per sweep on Russian thistle. In some places, small Russian thistle plants have actually begun to shrink and harden. No counts were found on any of the young stands of *Bassia* or mustard. Surveys on the scattered patches of lamb's quarter produced 2–4 adults per single sweep with an occasional small nymph.

Around Taft and Maricopa, hot weather has stymied growth of summer plants. Previous Russian thistle fields near the corner of Gardner Field and Southlake Roads, now remain bare and desolate. The oil fields along Pentland Road are similar. Both areas harbor only a few desiccated remnants of mustard and old tumbleweed. Most viable host plants in the area are found in fallow fields east of Taft. Previously disked fields along Southlake Road have small traces of lambs quarter and *Bassia* starting to develop. However, the emergence of young Russian thistle appears aggressively widespread and abundant. BLH surveys produced 0.7 adults per single sweep on Russian thistle, and a combination of other host plants.

Cannery tomato harvest started on the east side this week. Melon and bell pepper harvests are on-going. Near Mettler, fields are currently being prepared for early harvest of processing tomatoes. Tomatoes, melons, beans and pepper plantings continue to appear hardy and vigorous with little beet curly top virus (BCTV) symptoms.

### **Kings County**

Ground-rig spot treatments were completed during the week with the treatment of 80 acres in the vicinity of Devils Den. Roadside host plants east of Highway 33, in the southwestern most part of Kings County, were surveyed and treated for BLH adults. Russian thistle mapping will begin next week in Kings and Fresno Counties.

## **Fresno County**

Host plant survey was conducted in Fresno County during the week. Russian thistle is developing on the lower slopes of the Tumey Hills. BLH counts in the Tumey Hills were less than one per sweep.

Susceptible host crops remain in good vigor. Very little BCTV symptoms have been observed to date. A large number of grasshoppers have been observed in the rangeland and in some fallow fields. Tomato harvest has started near Manning Avenue and Interstate 5.