

# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



## ***CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM***

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Weekly Report for Week Ending July 6, 2012

### **Kern County**

Russian thistle has begun to develop in the oil fields along Pentland Road where bare ground was present only a few weeks ago. The emergence of Russian thistle was contingent upon poor growing conditions, including very dry soil and extremely hot weather. Beet leafhopper (BLH) surveys produced 0.5 adults per sweep. Adjacent fallow land has abundant Russian thistle, spotty *Bassia* and sparse goosefoot. This property may be disked eventually; however current BLH surveys averaged 2.5 adults, and an occasional 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> instar nymph per single sweep.

Abandoned property at Gardner Field and Southlake Road remains bare of vegetation. Nearby fallow fields on Southlake Road have recently been alternately disked, allowing for some control of summer plants. Other fields, however, have a second emergence of Russian thistle, and these may eventually be disked as well. Vegetation is vigorous and prolific. BLH surveys found no counts at this time.

The mapping of summer host vegetation began in the Lost Hills region. A few traditional areas were found unproductive and bare, as a result of poor growing conditions, or grazing by sheep. However, it appears that more viable acres may be mapped elsewhere, making up for any perceived short-fall. So far, about 1,500 acres have been mapped, including the flats and a portion of the Lost Hills oil field.

Bell pepper and watermelon are being harvested in the Mettler area. Processing tomato harvest is almost ready to start. The tomato crop appears to be holding up well, despite the increase in daytime temperatures. Late plantings all have good canopy and vigor. Survey for beet curly top virus found very little symptoms.

### **Kings County**

Host plant survey was performed in the vicinity of Devils Den. Approximately 1,306 acres of Russian thistle was mapped throughout the area. BLH counts are currently low. Hot weather has caused some of the smaller Russian thistle plants to dry up but a majority of the large plants are surviving.

### **Fresno County**

An additional 12,160 acres of Russian thistle was mapped during the week in Fresno County for a total of approximately 18,300 acres. A majority of the fallow fields recently mapped is Westland's Water District property south of Mendota between Highway 33 and Manning Avenue. We anticipate that much of this acreage will be cultivated as in past years.