

BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Weekly Report for Week Ending August 3, 2012

Kern County

Beet leafhopper (BLH) host plant survey continued in Kern County during the week. Currently 14,575 acres have been mapped in Lost Hills, 5,390 acres in Kernridge, and 1,059 acres along north end of the county. Average BLH populations are widespread and vary from 0 to 8 per single sweep, depending on host plant conditions. Underdeveloped Russian thistle is in a state of dehydration and BLH counts are higher where this condition exists. Small to medium size Russian thistle plants continue to be a suitable habitat but counts range from 0 to 3 per single sweep. Young summer adults account for 75% of population, with the balance of nymphs in assorted instars.

In the vicinity of the Holloway Gyp Pits area (north of Highway 46 and east of Highway 33), the Russian thistle looked healthy. Drying and stressing can be observed in areas containing small plants. BLH counts averaged 2 to 4 per sweep with 30% nymphs. Some fallow fields north of Lost Hills were observed under cultivation during the week. This will eliminate a resurgence of thistle and Five- Hook Bassia. BLH counts remain light in this area.

On the south side of Highway 46, in the Lost Hills Oil Field, Russian thistle had been recently disked. Overall the Russian thistle looks healthy, but is drying a little. BLH counts are relatively low but may pick up as disking in the area will concentrate populations on remaining host plants.

Survey of oil field property near Twisselman Road produced 0 to 0.5 BLH's per sweep. Russian thistle is scattered and thinly developed with some plants beginning to deteriorate.

Fresno and Kings Counties

Survey of host plants continued in Kings and Fresno Counties. Cultivating activity was observed throughout most areas. Approximately 2,960 acres in Fresno County and 700 acres in Kings County were removed from the potential treatment maps. Property in the Westlands Water District comprised the bulk of the areas removed in Fresno County including 400 acres near Coalinga area where sheep are currently grazing.

Four sets of fall survey maps were created and printed illustrating potential treatment fields, non-treatable property, endangered species, preserves and conservation areas plus critical habitat of concern; then copies were distributed to BCTV crew. These maps should aid staff with field delimitation during the waiver process, as well as BLH and host plant surveying.



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