

# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS WEEKLY REPORT



## **CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM**

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Weekly Report for Week Ending September 7, 2012

### **Kern County**

Fallow fields continue to be disked in the Taft/Maricopa area. Surveys conducted on roadsides found less than 1 beet leafhopper (BLH) per sweep on scattered Russian thistle and lambsquarter. Russian thistle and sparse *Bassia* on Pentland Road produced 1.5 adults per single sweep. So far, the BLH population has not increased much in this region.

BLH counts have not changed in Lost Hills and continue to remain low. The Flats, west of town, show a steady decline of most host plants. Russian thistle has become scrappy and hard, attesting to persistent, harsh summer conditions in this area. Plants that were once vibrant now appear withered and dry. BLH surveys produced a range of 0–2 adults per sweep averages. A large portion of the west end of the Flats is currently being disked. Most of the land is owned by a single company, so it is possible that disking will continue. This will eventually eliminate a vast amount of BLH habitat.

Counts remain low in the Lost Hills Oil Field, and nearby airport property. Host plants are holding up well, in spite of dry conditions. Vegetation is plentiful, allowing for greater dissemination. Surveys produced 0.5 BLH per sweep in the oil field, and 2–3 adults per sweep near the airport.

### **Fresno County**

BLH host plant survey continued on the westside of Fresno County. An additional 3,000 acres was removed from the potential treatment maps due to cultivation. BLH activity has increase to 15-20 per net sweep in areas surveyed. The recent increase is likely due to the migration of BLH's from areas under nearby cultivation.

BLH populations are also increasing on the Coalinga Nose. BLH counts acreage 10-18 per sweep on Russian thistle. Although the small Russian thistle plants are stressing and drying out, there are sufficient numbers of larger Russian thistle plants maintaining good vigor.

### **Fresno Facility**

Approximately 35% of the waivers have been returned from property owners.

Staff obtained access to the National Diversity Data Base to update endangered species locations in the Program's potential treatment areas. Files were downloaded and are being converted into MapInfo format.