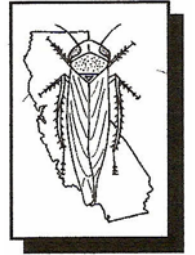


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

2895 N. Larkin, Suite A
Fresno, CA 93727
PHONE: (559) 294-2031
FAX: (559) 294-2037

Monthly Report for December, 2013

With only two small rain systems passing through the valley, December has remained very dry. There was very little to no green host vegetation in the rangeland and hillsides. At the same time last year, we saw slightly more rainfall in December, thus germinating more of the BLH host plants. There were higher BLH counts than this year. Last year, counts were double what they are this year.

Just a reminder; the BCTVCP will begin using a new system of communication called Lyris. This notification process will be more user friendly and easy to subscribe to. Please visit <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/subscriptions/> to sign up for Curly Top Virus monthly newsletters and alerts. **If you already receive the monthly BCTV report via email, you will automatically be switched to Lyris.** Stakeholders that wish to be added to this new system can subscribe using the above link.

Fresno County

- Surveys were conducted throughout the month in Chevron, North Chevron, Domengine Ranch, the Tumey Hills, Coalinga, and Mendota. These areas remained very dry and void of host vegetation. Annual grasses were beginning to germinate in some areas but there were no signs of filaree, pepper grass, or plantago.
- The above areas of survey remained very dry. Russian thistle and *Bassia* have died out with only an occasional plant remaining. There were no beet leafhoppers in any of the sweeps conducted in those locations.
- Survey was also conducted in Pepper Flats, Narbeitz, and along the staircase between Manning Avenue and Harlan Avenue. Overall, there were no host vegetation plants visible, except for a couple of small patches of filaree near the staircase. There were no beet leafhoppers observed in the sweeps conducted on the filaree.
- Beet leafhopper (BLH) sweep surveys were conducted on Atriplex. Near the "Big C" in Coalinga, counts were 2-3 adult BLH per sweep. In other places where sweeps were conducted on Atriplex, counts were zero BLH per sweep.
- The area north of Panoche Road has some filaree development, mostly along the low lying and southwestern slopes.
- By the end of December, the area north of Panoche Road showed more filaree development, although patchy. Sweep counts were as high as 7 adult BLH per sweep, however counts were on average, 3-4 adult BLH per sweep.
- Results of the BLH samples that were submitted last month showed curly top virus was present. These samples were taken from the Utica Avenue/Interstate 5 area and from the Lassen Avenue/Highway 198 area.
- Additional samples of beet leafhoppers have been collected and will be submitted in January. Those samples BLH were collected from Atriplex.

Imperial/ Riverside County

- The desert counties were surveyed for host plant vegetation and beet leafhopper activity. Roadside vegetation was minimal. Sweeps produced zero BLH per sweep. Some mallow and goosefoot were detected in small patches and were very green, however, there were no beet leafhoppers observed.
- Sweeps were conducted on alfalfa and Bermuda grass as well, producing less than one BLH per sweep.

Kern County

- Survey was conducted throughout the month to identify host plant development and monitor BLH populations. Most of Kern County remains dry and void of host plants. In late November, there was some precipitation to parts of Kern County.
- Host plant surveys took place in Taft, Maricopa, Cuyama, and the Southern end of Carrizo Valley. These locations did not show signs of emerging host vegetation.
- Survey of eastern Kern County, south east of Arvin, from State Route 223 south to Comanche Point Road had patchy filaree and native grasses emerging. Sweeps on the filaree produced an average of less than one adult BLH per sweep.
- The rain event in late November enabled the filaree to emerge, however, by the end of December, it was stressing due to the lack of continued rainfall. BLH sweeps on the filaree produced an average of less than one BLH per sweep. Other host plants, such as pepper grass and plantago were not observed.

Kings County

- Kings County received some rainfall during December. Host plants began to emerge. Host vegetation is mainly along roadsides. Vegetation is primarily annual grasses and patchy filaree. Sweeps produced zero BLH per sweep.
- The hills between the Devil's Den and the Kettleman Hills did not show signs of host plant development.
- Sweeps were conducted on Atriplex near Kettleman City on Avenue 25, just east of Highway 41. Counts were on average 5-7 adult BLH per sweep. BLH samples from the Atriplex were collected and will be sent in for testing. Results will be included in the next monthly report.

Merced County

- Maps have been generated and will be used for identifying property owners. Staff will begin making contact to establish communication and obtain permission to survey rangeland and foothills.
- Parcel information was collected from the tax assessor's office. Potential survey and population monitoring will begin once contact has been established with property owners.

San Joaquin County

- The Program is still in the process of gathering parcel information for this County.
- Staff will make contact and establish communication with property owners once the appropriate parcels have been identified.

Stanislaus County

- Host vegetation was observed along the roadsides. On Bell Road north of Fink Road the roadside filaree has developed. Sweeps conducted produced 3 adult BLH and 1 nymph per sweep.
- Maps have been generated and will be used for identifying property owners. Staff will begin making contact to establish communication and obtain permission to survey rangeland and foothills.
- Parcel information was collected from the tax assessors office. Potential survey and population monitoring will begin once contact has been established with property owners.