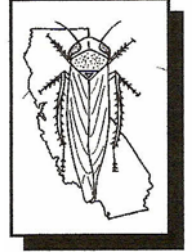


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Monthly Report for January, 2014

January remained very dry, with only one late rain system toward the end of the month. The National Weather Service reported merely 0.11 inches of precipitation in January. The hillsides and canyons on the west side were void of beet leaf hopper (BLH) host plants. BLH sweep counts were conducted on *Atriplex* given the scarcity of other host plants. Counts were very low, with an average of 2-4 adult BLH per sweep on the scattered *Atriplex* around the west side.



Photo by Jennifer Willems

Looking back at the BLH counts we had in January 2013 and comparing that to January 2014, it is possible spring 2014 won't have high pest pressure from the beet leaf hopper.

January 2013

Early nymph hatch in Kings/ Fresno Co.
Filaree was abundant/widespread, patchy pepper grass
Winter vegetation was growing well
BLH counts as high as 25-30 per 10 sweeps
(sweeps were in hillsides/canyons)

January 2014

No nymphs detected
Very minimal/ no filaree observed
Too dry for winter vegetation
BLH counts average 3-4 per sweep
(sweeps were on *Atriplex*)

Viral pressure may be an important factor in 2014. The Program collected 44 plant samples from Kings and Fresno Counties to be tested for virus. The majority of the plants were *Atriplex*. Several samples of beet leaf hoppers were also sent for analysis. Six out of six beet leafhopper samples and 26 of the 44 plant samples were positive for Curly Top Virus.

Fresno County

- The Program's operator I.D. number was renewed for Fresno County.
- BLH and vegetation surveys were conducted throughout the month in Firebaugh, Mendota, Tumey Hills, Panoche Creek, and Coalinga.
- Sweeps were conducted just south of Kamm Avenue near the "staircase" on developing patches of filaree. Zero BLH were detected.
- Patches of filaree have begun to develop along the eastern fence line of the Tumey Hills, north of Manning Avenue. Similar conditions and filaree development observed near Panoche Creek. Zero BLH were detected.
- Sweeps on *Atriplex* and filaree from the Coalinga and Mendota area from Highway 198 north to Manning Avenue resulted in less than 1 adult BLH per sweep.
- Surveys on the Chevron, North Chevron and Domengine Ranch properties were dry and void of host plant development.
- With the lack of precipitation, the filaree that had begun to develop showed signs of stress and drying by the end of the month.

Kern County

- The Program's operator I.D. number was renewed for Kern County.
- Survey along the west side of Kern County in Taft and Maricopa resulted in very dry conditions, very little host plant development and BLH sweeps of less than 1 adult BLH per sweep, and zero nymphs. Sweeps were conducted on *Atriplex*.
- Surveys were conducted in the eastern locations of Kern County. Sparse filaree had begun to develop along the Tehachapi mountain range and in the foothills East of Arvin.
- Surveys were also conducted in the southern portions of Kern County; east of Interstate 5, north of Grapevine Road along the Edmonston aqueduct and south of Laval Road. Host vegetation began to develop. BLH sweep counts were 1-2 per 10 sweeps with zero nymphs.
- Sections East of Arvin to Comanche Point had sparse vegetation development, that dried by the end of the month. BLH counts were less than 1 per sweep with zero nymphs. Interestingly, personnel observed numerous sharpshooter and *Agallia* nymphs in this area.
- Sections along the foothills of the Tejon Hills, from Comanche Point to Laval Road are void of host plant vegetation.

Kings County

- The Program's operator I.D. number was renewed for Kings County.
- BLH and vegetation surveys were conducted in southwestern Kings County along the hills west of Interstate 5, near the Kern County line. Conditions were extremely dry and void of host plant vegetation.
- In rural Kings County, on Highway 41 west of Highway 33, there was section of roadside vegetation that resulted in 7-10 adult BLH and zero nymphs per sweep. This section was treated with 80 gallons of mixed Malathion. Post treatment sweep counts were conducted with less than one adult BLH per sweep.

Merced County

- The Program's operator I.D. number was renewed for Merced County.
- Program personnel continued to identify property owners from Santa Nella to Gustine to gain access for BLH surveys.
- Vegetation development in Merced County is similar to Fresno County; dry and void of BLH host plants.
- Sweeps along Henry Miller Road east of Interstate 5 resulted in 1-2 adult BLH per sweep. Filaree is the dominant host plant.
- Sweeps on patchy filaree along Bayview Road west of Highway 33 resulted in 1-2 adult BLH per sweep.
- Along Husman Road east of Whitworth Road that was a mix of filaree, malo and London rocket. Sweeps yielded 2-3 adult BLH per sweep.
- Sweeps along Pfitzer Road east of Whitworth Road produced 1-2 adult BLH per sweep.
- Sweeps along Taglio Road east of Orchard Road produced 2-3 adult BLH per sweep.
- No nymphs were observed.
- Personnel will continue to monitor these areas for BLH population activity.

San Joaquin County

- Majority of the vegetation is along roadsides and consists of filaree and some London rocket and malo.
- Sections along South Koster Road south of Blewett Road have sufficient filaree but lack beet leaf hoppers. Counts were less than one BLH per sweep.
- Survey was conducted north of Geffery Road on South Koster Road yielded less than one BLH per sweep.
- The San Francisco Water District station west of Interstate 5 on West Vernalis Road had abundant filaree, London rocket and mallow development, but lacked beet leaf hoppers.
- No nymphs were observed.
- Personnel will continue to monitor these areas for BLH population activity.

Stanislaus County

- Surveys for host plant development and BLH activity was similar in Stanislaus County as with San Joaquin County.
- A mix of mallow and filaree was observed on Draper Road north of Moorehead Road. Sweep counts were 1 adult BLH per sweep. The same sweep conditions and results were observed on Eastin Road south of Shiells Road.
- Sweeps were conducted at the intersection of Pete Miller Road and Orchard Road on the mallow and filaree. Counts were less than one adult per sweep.
- Host vegetation was more abundant than in other counties however, the beet leaf hoppers have yet to make use of it. Average sweep counts for Stanislaus County was less than one adult BLH and zero nymphs, per sweep.
- Personnel will continue to monitor these areas for BLH population activity.