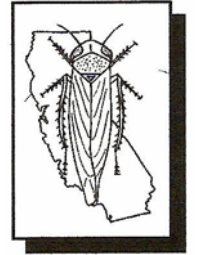


# BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



## **CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM**

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Report for October, 2015

### **Program-wide notice**

- Beet leafhopper (BLH) counts were unusually low for the month of October.
- Throughout the valley BLH counts remained very low, with an average of 2-3 adults and 1-3 nymphs per sweep. In some isolated locations, nymphs average 6-7 per sweep. During sweep net surveys, personnel found high counts of agailia's and sharpshooters, and two bagrada bugs.
- The Curly Top Virus Control Program did not conduct a fall treatment campaign due to the very low BLH counts Statewide.
- There were a few days of rainfall, which began the germination of BLH host plants in the rangeland. It is likely that the majority of beet leafhoppers have migrated back to the rangeland habitat as indicated by sweep surveys.
- Honey bees were not observed in any of the Program's sweep net surveys.

### **Fresno County**

- Personnel continued to identify and monitor fallow fields for BLH populations for the fall spray campaign. Disking and grazing considerably reduced potential treatment acreage. BLH counts did not increase significantly with the reduction of viable host vegetation.
- BLH population surveys and host plant surveys were conducted from Coalinga to Three Rocks. Average BLH counts in the remaining mapped locations were 1-2 adult BLH per sweep and less than 1 nymph per sweep.
- BLH population surveys and host plant surveys were conducted from Three Rocks to Mendota. Average BLH counts in the remaining mapped locations were 1-2 adult BLH per sweep and less than 1 nymph per sweep.
- Eleven (11) beet leafhopper samples were collected and submitted for virus analysis. One (1) was positive for curly top virus.
- Five (5) host plant samples were collected and submitted for virus analysis. All five (5) were negative for curly top virus.

### **Kern County**

- Personnel continued to identify and monitor fallow fields for BLH populations for the fall spray campaign. Disking and grazing considerably reduced potential treatment acreage. BLH counts did not increase significantly with the reduction of viable host vegetation.
- BLH sweep counts remained low throughout the County. Average BLH counts were 0-5 adults with occasional nymphs per sweep. There were isolated 'hot spots' where counts ranged from 3-10 adult and nymphs per sweep. Counts were

inconsistent throughout the mapped locations.

- Ten (10) beet leafhopper samples were collected and submitted for virus analysis. All ten (10) samples were negative for curly top virus.
- Sixteen (16) host plant samples were collected and submitted for virus analysis. All sixteen (16) were negative for curly top virus.

## Kings County

- Personnel continued to identify and monitor fallow fields for BLH populations for the fall spray campaign.
- Average BLH counts in mapped locations were 2-3 adult BLH per sweep and less than 1 nymph per sweep. Approximately, 2,000 acres had slightly higher BLH count averages of 5-8 adults and nymphs per sweep. There were also high counts of agailia's and other non-target leafhoppers.
- The Program conducted an organic pesticide trial within a fallow field on the north side of Utica Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Initial BLH counts were consistent with an average of 10-15 adult and nymphs per sweep. Experimental test plots contained the organic pesticides, TriTek, Ecotec, and Azera, plus one test plot for malathion and one plot as a control, and replicated five times using ground rig application. Sweep counts were conducted prior to each application and again at 24, 48, and 72 hours post application.
- Results are pending, but preliminary results show malathion being considerably more effective than the organic pesticides, although there was a decrease in BLH for each of the organic test plots. Very windy conditions may have also been a significant factor in reducing sweep counts during post application surveys. Results will be reported next month.
- Thirteen (13) beet leafhopper samples were collected and submitted for virus analysis. One (1) was positive for curly top virus.
- Nine (9) host plant samples were collected and submitted for virus analysis. Eight (8) were positive for curly top virus.



## Merced County

- BLH population and host plant surveys were conducted primarily along roadsides. Most roadsides had low BLH counts, with 2-3 adults and 0-2 nymphs per sweep.
- At the Gustine City maintenance yard/Gustine water treatment facility where the *Bassia* and other host plants had been mowed last month, counts were 4-5 adults and 8-10 nymphs per sweep. On areas that were recently mowed, counts were 7-10 adults and 30-40 nymphs per sweep.
- There was an area of stressed purslane along a cotton field off of Volta Road and Highway 152 with BLH counts of 10-12 adults and 20-30 nymphs per sweep.
- The hillsides between Los Banos Reservoir and the San Luis Reservoir had *Bassia* and Russian thistle. BLH counts were 5-7 adults and 3-4 nymphs per sweep. There

was an almond orchard at the south east end of the hills that had been pulled out. There was a lot of Russian thistle and *Bassia* in that area with BLH counts of 4-5 adults and 2-3 nymphs per sweep.

- Eight (8) beet leafhopper samples were submitted for virus analysis. Three (3) were positive for curly top virus.
- One (1) plant sample was collected and submitted for virus analysis. It was negative for curly top virus.

### **San Joaquin County**

- BLH population and host surveys were conducted and counts remained low.
- Majority of host plant vegetation was in patches along roadsides or in small fallow fields.
- A few fallow fields were surveyed and BLH counts were 1-3 adults and 0-3 nymphs per sweep.
- Three (3) beet leafhopper samples were collected and submitted for virus analysis. Two (2) were positive for curly top virus.

### **Stanislaus County**

- BLH population and host surveys were conducted and counts were low, with 1-2 adults and 0-1 nymphs per sweep.
- Majority of host plant vegetation was in patches along roadsides or in small fallow fields.
- One small fallow field off of Interstate 5 and Stuhr Road had 3-5 adult BLH and 1-2 nymphs per sweep.
- Two (2) beet leafhoppers were collected and submitted for analysis. Both samples were positive for curly top virus.

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