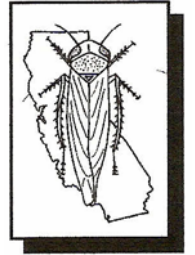


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS

MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Report for September, 2015

Program-wide notice

- Beet leafhopper (BLH) counts remained very low throughout the month of September. Disking and grazing were actively underway as growers received the Program's treatment waivers. Typically, disking and grazing reduces the available BLH host vegetation and increases the beet leafhopper populations on remaining viable host vegetation. By the end of September, the Program usually observes a significant increase in BLH populations and begins making arrangements for aerial treatment in October. This year, however, BLH counts were still very low at the end of September with only occasional nymphs observed.

Fresno County

- Personnel continued to identify and monitor fallow fields for BLH populations as the Program prepares for the fall spray campaign.
- BLH population surveys and host plant surveys were conducted in Mendota. Disking and grazing considerably reduced potential treatment acreage. BLH counts did not increase significantly with the reduction of viable host vegetation. Average BLH counts in this area were 0-1 adult BLH per sweep.
- BLH population surveys and host plant surveys were conducted in the Three Rocks and Cantua Creek areas. BLH counts in the Three Rocks area were low with an average of 1-2 adult BLH per sweep. Counts were inconsistent as many of the sweeps produced zero counts. Personnel observed high counts of thrips and aphids. In the Cantua Creek area, BLH counts remained low with an average of 0-1 adult BLH per sweep. There were three areas that were mapped for treatment, but due to disking, these fields were eliminated from treatment maps.
- BLH population surveys and host plant surveys were conducted in the Firebaugh area. All of the mapped fields were disked and will not be treated. Personnel will continue to monitor any roadsides that develop in this area.
- Mapped areas such as the staircase, Chevron, North Chevron, and properties south of Mount Whitney were eliminated from treatment maps due to undeveloped BLH host plants.
- BLH population surveys and host plant surveys took place in the Five Points area. Disking has eliminated all of the mapped fields from treatment maps.
- The Coalinga oilfields were surveyed for BLH populations and host plants. Russian thistle was observed along the oil field roads. BLH counts were on average less than 1 adult per sweep.
- Overall, acreage has been reduced for fall treatment and BLH counts remained very low. No BLH nymphs were observed during surveys in Fresno County in September.

Kern County

- Personnel continued to identify and monitor fallow fields for BLH populations as the Program prepares for the fall spray campaign.
- BLH survey and host plant survey were conducted in the northwestern corner of Kern County, in the Lost Hills area, Blackwell's and Keck's corner, Devil's Den Road, Twisselman Road, Lost Hills road, GP Road, and sections along State Route 33 and 46, and Interstate 5. Average BLH counts in these areas were very low, with less than 1 BLH per sweep. An occasional nymph was observed. Russian thistle, *Bassia*, desert spike, and *Chenopodium* were the predominant host plants in the area.
- Disking of mapped areas took place and eliminated some fields from treatment maps.

Kings County

- Personnel continued to identify and monitor fallow fields for BLH populations as the Program prepares for the fall spray campaign.
- BLH survey and host plant surveys in the Interstate 5 and Utica Avenue area had a slight increase in BLH counts. Fields on the south side Utica Avenue had an average BLH count of less than 1 adult per sweep, and by the end of September counts were 3-5 adults per sweep. An occasional BLH nymph was observed. Host plants were *Bassia* and Russian thistle that don't appear to be stressed for this time of the year. Fields on the north side of Utica Avenue were similar to that on the south side. BLH counts were on average less than 1 adult per sweep.
- There was a fallow field with *Bassia* and Russian thistle on the Avenal cutoff Road northeast of 25th Avenue. Sweep counts were 5-6 adult BLH and 0-2 nymphs per sweep.
- Areas surveyed south of Lemoore averaged BLH counts of less than 1 adult BLH per sweep.

Merced County

- Personnel will continue to identify and monitor fallow fields for BLH populations as the Program begins to prepare for the fall spray campaign.
- Majority of host plant vegetation is patchy along roadsides or in small fallow fields and not stressed enough to produce high BLH counts. BLH sweep counts were on average 0-3 adult BLH and an occasional nymph.
- In Gustine, at a maintenance yard and sewage treatment holding pond off of Carnation Road, there was *Bassia* and Russian thistle along the perimeter and throughout the area. Sweep counts were 2-4 adult BLH and 2-3 nymphs per sweep. A total of 271 acres was mapped, however, the Central California Irrigation District was mowing all of the vegetation. Sweeps were conducted on the mowed stressed vegetation and counts were significantly higher, with 30-40 BLH nymphs and zero adults. Within the area mapped there were endangered species indicated, therefore treatment will not be possible.

San Joaquin County

- Personnel will continue to identify and monitor fallow fields for BLH populations as the Program begins to prepare for the fall spray campaign.
- Personnel continued to survey the County to learn specific BLH hot spots and host plant development sites.
- Areas around the Tracy Defense Depot were surveyed. BLH counts were less than 1 adult BLH per sweep. The majority of the fields in this area had been disked. The remaining fallow field had an abundance of Russian thistle and BLH counts were an average of 4 adult BLH per sweep.
- Majority of host plant vegetation is patchy along roadsides or in small fallow fields. *Bassia* and Russian thistle were showing signs of stress but sweep counts were low. Average BLH counts were 0-3 adult BLH and 0-2 nymphs per sweep.

Stanislaus County

- Personnel will continue to identify and monitor fallow fields for BLH populations as the Program begins to prepare for the fall spray campaign.
- Personnel continued to survey the County to learn specific BLH hot spots and host plant development sites.
- Majority of host plant vegetation is patchy along roadsides or in small fallow fields. BLH counts were low, with an average of 0-2 adult BLH and zero nymphs.

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