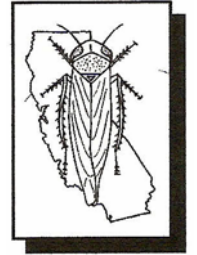


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS

MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Report for April, 2017

Program-wide notice

- Beet leafhopper counts were minimal in all locations surveyed in Fresno and Kings Counties. There were some isolated “hot spots” in some fields but BLH counts were very low compared to previous years at this time.
- Vegetation was dry, thick, and overgrown, therefore the majority of the fields had significantly reduced BLH habitat within Fresno and Kings Counties.
- The Program conducted aerial treatment on April 11th, 2017 in Kern County. A total of 4,000 acres were treated. See attached map.
- No bees were observed in BLH sweep counts during surveys or treatment. The bee boxes placed in orchards were not impacted and did not impact the spray program.
- The Program is anticipating a larger fall spray campaign due to the amount of fall host plants already beginning to emerge in each county.
- The BLM issued pesticide use permit expired in March 2017. The renewal documents were prepared and submitted on March 23, 2017. There was a seven day wait period for comment. A renewed and signed pesticide use permit was in place by April 5th, 2017.
- BLM also granted the BCTV Program an extension for Kern County in order to conduct treatment if needed, past the April 15th deadline. The extension ends May 15th, however, additional areas of treatment did not develop, and no further aerial treatment applications were needed.
- The Program would like to remind growers and PCA’s that any fallow fields should be inspected for BLH prior to disking. If a BLH infestation is present, please use an insecticide first. The Program can be available for BLH surveys and, if needed, treatment of fallow fields, where BLH counts reach the treatment threshold.

Fresno County

- The Tumey hills and north Panoche creek properties were monitored closely for BLH population development during the first half of April. These properties have been treated in the past and typically have high BLH counts. This spring, the high BLH populations did not occur. The annual grasses were very thick throughout the properties, limiting the *Plantago* development and suitable BLH habitat. Counts remained very low, with an average of 1-3 BLH per 10 sweeps. These properties were not treated in the spring campaign.
- BLH surveys were conducted on the Gyp Pit property, north of Three Rocks. Conditions were very similar to the Tumey hills and north Panoche creek properties. Vegetation was overgrown and very dry. Suitable BLH habitat and host plants were very limited. BLH counts ranged from 0-7 per 10 sweeps. The Gyp Pit property was excluded from spring treatment.
- Similar field conditions were observed in Chevron, North Chevron, Domengine

Ranch, and property between Cantua Creek and Kamm Avenue. There were very low BLH counts, dry overgrown vegetation, and limited areas of suitable BLH habitat. These properties were also excluded from spring treatment.

- Program personnel began surveying roadsides and fallow fields toward the end of April. Ground-rig treatment will be conducted as needed.
- Forty-one (41) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. Twenty-five (25) of the samples tested positive for curly top virus.
- Fourteen (14) symptomatic tomato plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. Three (3) of the samples tested positive for curly top virus.
- Thirty-eight (38) beet leafhopper samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. Thirty-five (35) samples were positive for curly top virus.

Kern County

- The Program conducted aerial treatment on April 11th, 2017 in Taft for two fields. The Buena Vista hills had BLH counts that ranged from 5-15 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps. 3,600 acres were treated at 100%. The Kitty Care field had BLH counts that ranged from 10-15 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps. 400 acres were treated at 100%. A total of 4,000 acres were treated aerially for beet leafhopper. See attached map.
- There was an average of 80% post treatment efficacy for the fields treated.
- Due to the timing and amount of precipitation, as well as the location of the rainfall, vegetation did not stress and dry in unison. There was a staggered pattern of vegetation die off and the Program expected to stagger treatment as well. Due to weather conditions and low BLH counts additional aerial treatment was not necessary. Large BLH populations did not develop as in past years.
- Personnel will monitor roadsides and fallow fields. Ground-rig treatment applications will be conducted as needed.
- Personnel have observed high populations of non-target leafhoppers in sweep surveys.
- Eleven (11) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. Five (5) were positive for curly top virus.
- Seven (7) symptomatic tomato plants were collected and sent for virus analysis. None of them were positive for curly top virus. All of the tomato samples tested positive for Alfalfa Mosaic Virus (AMV).
- Four (4) BLH samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. One (1) was positive for curly top virus.

Kings County

- The Kettleman Hills were very thick and overgrown with dry vegetation. BLH counts did not increase as the vegetation dried down. Counts were inconsistent and would fluctuate between 6-8 adults per 10 sweeps and 0-3 adults per 10 sweeps. Good BLH habitat was limited. The Kettleman hills were excluded from spring treatment.
- Roadsides and fallow fields were monitored for BLH activity, however, there was very low activity. Personnel will continue to monitor these areas and will conduct ground-rig treatment as needed.
- Two (2) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. Both were negative for curly top virus.
- Two (2) symptomatic tomato plants were collected and sent for virus analysis. One (1) was positive for curly top virus.
- BLH were not tested because the low counts made it difficult to collect.

Imperial County

- The desert areas of Imperial Valley and Riverside County will be surveyed during the week of June 5, 2017. BLH and host plant samples will also be collected and sent for virus analysis.

Merced County

- Personnel will continue to monitor BLH populations and collect both host plant and BLH samples for virus analysis.
- The areas surveyed had thick vegetation that was widespread and overgrown, that significantly reduced BLH habitat. BLH counts were 0-2 adults per 10 sweeps with occasional nymphs.
- There is a lot of black mustard and London rocket along the roadsides, however, the BLH were very minimal in sweeps over these plants. There were eight (8) beet leafhoppers the entire day during surveys in this area.
- One (1) BLH sample was obtained and sent for virus analysis. It was positive for curly top virus.

Salinas Valley

- Program personnel will survey the Salinas Valley during the week of May 8, 2017. BLH and host plant samples will be collected and sent for virus analysis. Information will be provided next month.

Stanislaus County

- Personnel will continue to monitor BLH populations and collect both host plant and BLH samples for virus analysis.
- BLH counts were very low, with an average of 0-2 adult BLH per 10 sweeps. Non-target leafhoppers and sharpshooter adults and nymphs were observed in high counts during surveys.
- BLH samples were not obtained due to the low and infrequent observation of BLH in sweep surveys.

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***See treatment map on next page.**

