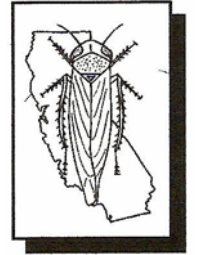


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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

Report for January/February,
2017

Program-wide notice

- December 2016 through February 2017 were very wet months with closer to normal precipitation than in the past several years. The rainfall has germinated winter grasses and winter host plants.
- At the end of February, vegetation was very overgrown and thick, making it unsuitable habitat for the beet leafhopper. BLH counts were very low, with an average count of 0-3 adult BLH per 10 sweeps, for Fresno, Kern, and Kings Counties. The beet leafhoppers that have been observed were overwintering adults. BLH nymphs were not observed in January or February.
- Overall, the BLH counts and virus levels were low in January and February.
- No bees were observed in BLH sweep counts however, personnel observed numerous bee boxes placed in several locations that could impact spring treatment.

Fresno County

- The majority of the areas the Program surveys is on private property and ranches in Fresno County. Due to the amount of rainfall and the conditions of the dirt roads, Program personnel were not able to access much of the land to survey until roads dried up and the weather was more favorable.
- The "Big C" area of Coalinga had very little BLH activity. BLH counts were very low with 0-3 BLH adults per 10 sweeps. Vegetation was thick and widespread. Non-target leafhoppers, aphids, lygus, and sharp shooters were observed in low numbers.
- The Tumey Hills area was surveyed toward the end of February. There were a couple of draws where vegetation was sparse but contained mostly *Plantago*, which is great habitat for BLH. However, there were low counts of 0-1 adult BLH per 10 sweeps.
- North Panoche Creek was surveyed at the end of February. Vegetation remained very thick and widespread, with wet soil conditions, making it unsuitable BLH habitat. BLH counts were less than 1 adult BLH per 10 sweeps.
- No BLH nymphs were observed in January or February.
- A bee check clearance form was submitted to the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's office at the end of February. There were several locations within the almond orchards where bee boxes have been placed that could impact spring treatment from north of Panoche Creek to Highway 198. Many of the bee boxes do not have names or phone number's printed on them, and the County didn't have records showing bees were present in many sections. The Program will do its due diligence with notification to the bee keepers, however, if no contact can be made, the Program will maintain the one mile buffer.
- A total of thirteen (13) host plant samples were collected in February and sent for

virus analysis. Seven (7) samples were negative for curly top virus. The remaining sample results are pending and will be reported next month.

- A total of four (4) beet leafhopper samples were collected in January and February and sent for virus analysis. All four (4) of the samples were positive for curly top virus.
- The operator I.D number for Fresno County was renewed.

Kern County

- Adverse weather conditions throughout the January and February hampered BLH surveys. Vegetation was prevalent and thick in many areas. Filaree, pepper grass, *Plantago*, London rocket, and winter grasses were abundant, widespread and overgrown.



- BLH surveys conducted in the higher elevations on the south/southwestern slopes averaged 3 adult BLH per 10 sweeps. BLH surveys conducted in the valley and on the flats near Dustin Acres, Valley Acres, Reserve Valley Road, Airport Road, Midway Road, Kitty Care flats, Petroleum and Cadet Roads, and Elkhorn flats averaged less than 1 adult BLH per 10 sweeps.
- No BLH nymphs were observed in January or February.
- A total of eighty-one (81) host plant samples were collected in January and February and sent for virus analysis. Only two (2) were positive for curly top virus.
- A total of thirty-four (34) beet leafhopper samples were collected in January and February and sent for virus analysis. Ten (10) samples were positive for curly top virus.
- The operator I.D. number for Kern County was renewed.

Kings County

- Program personnel had limited access for BLH surveys due to adverse weather and bad road conditions.
- The Kettleman Hills were surveyed for BLH populations and winter host plants. Filaree and winter grasses were predominant on the majority of the hillsides. By the end of February, the vegetation was very dense and widespread. This type of habitat is unsuitable for the BLH. BLH counts were very low, with an average of 0-1 per 10 sweeps. No BLH nymphs were observed in January or February.
- Seven (7) host plant samples were collected in February and sent for virus analysis. Results are pending and will be reported next month.
- One (1) beet leafhopper sample was collected in February and sent for virus

- analysis. It was positive for curly top virus.
- The operator I.D. number was renewed for Kings County.

Merced County

- Personnel will continue to monitor BLH populations and collect both host plant and BLH samples for virus analysis.
- No BLH nymphs were observed in January or February.
- The majority of the areas surveyed had thick vegetation that was widespread. Some areas remained too wet and muddy for access to survey due to flooding or poor road conditions. BLH counts were on average, less than 1 adult BLH per 10 sweeps.
- Eight (8) host plant samples were collected in February and sent for virus analysis. Results are pending and will be reported next month.
- The operator I.D. number was renewed for Merced County.

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 0-1 adult BLH per 10 sweeps. No BLH nymphs were observed in January or February. Non-target leafhoppers and sharpshooter adults and nymphs were observed in high counts during surveys.
- Four (4) host plant samples were collected in February and sent for virus analysis. Results are pending and will be reported next month.

To subscribe to the BCTV monthly report, updates, and alerts, please use the link below:

www.cdfa.ca.gov/subscriptions/