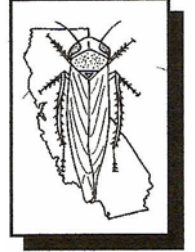


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Report for March, 2017

Program-wide notice

- Beet leafhopper counts were minimal in all locations surveyed in Fresno, Kings, and Kern Counties. There were some isolated “hot spots” in some fields but BLH counts were very low compared to previous years at this time.
- Vegetation remained thick and overgrown, therefore the majority of the fields had significantly reduced BLH habitat. There was a very small BLH hatch that occurred as the pepper grass began to dry and stress in early March. The first BLH nymphs were observed in Fresno County on March 1st and on March 8th in Kings and Kern Counties. Filaree and *Plantago* remained green and in good condition at the end of March.
- The Program was considering April 1st as the first day of treatment, however, minimal BLH counts and viable, green vegetation warranted the need to wait until counts increased and vegetation dried.
- No bees were observed in BLH sweep counts however, personnel observed numerous bee boxes placed in several locations that could impact spring treatment.
- 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 should be in place by April 5th, 2017.

Fresno County

- Tumey Hills and north Panoche creek continued to be surveyed for BLH populations and host plant conditions. These two areas remained overgrown and green with limited patches of beet leafhopper habitat. The pepper grass began to dry and stress early in March, however, the filaree and *Plantago* remained viable. Average BLH counts were 0-3 per 10 sweeps. Last year, these areas had counts of 15-40 per 10 sweeps. By the end of March, field conditions remained the same, except more of the pepper grass was dying off, and BLH counts were an average of 2-3 per 10 sweeps.
- Domengine Ranch was surveyed for BLH and host plant conditions in early March. Vegetation was thick and overgrown. Pepper grass, *Plantago*, and filaree were present in limited areas where they weren't crowded out by the annual grasses. The pepper grass was starting to stress. BLH counts were less than 1 per 10 sweeps. By the end of March, field conditions remained the same, except with more pepper grass stressing and drying, and BLH counts were an average of 0-2 BLH per 10 sweeps.
- The Chevron and North Chevron fields were surveyed for BLH populations and host plant conditions. These areas had very thick vegetation and was predominantly annual grasses with limited patches of pepper grass and filaree. BLH counts were less than 1 per 10 sweeps.

- BLH population surveys and host plant surveys were conducted west of Interstate 5 from Cantua Creek to three miles north of Kamm Avenue on two occasions. Surveys were conducted in early March and again toward the end of March. The vegetation on the property was very thick and overgrown. Pepper grass, *Plantago*, and filaree were present throughout the areas surveyed. The pepper grass had begun to stress and dry. BLH counts were inconsistent with counts that ranged from 0-15 BLH per 10 sweeps in “hot spot” areas, but an overall average count was 0-3 per 10 sweeps. Last year at this time, this area had BLH counts that ranged from 50-100+ per 10 sweeps. Personnel observed non target leafhoppers, aphids, thrips, and grasshoppers throughout the property during sweep surveys. Conditions remained the same during the second survey period.
- The Big C was surveyed for BLH populations and host plant conditions. Vegetation was thick and overgrown. The historical “hot spot” that typically has significant BLH counts in past years, only averaged 1-2 adults and 10 nymphs per 10 sweeps this year. The overall average for the Big C was 1-3 adults per 10 sweeps, with occasional nymphs.
- Zapatos Canyon, Jacalitos Creek, and Warthan Canyon were surveyed for BLH populations and host plant conditions. Vegetation was thick and overgrown with limited patches of suitable BLH habitat. In each location, BLH averages were 0-3 adults per 10 sweeps with occasional nymphs.
- A total of one hundred-thirteen (113) host plant samples were collected in March and sent for virus analysis. Seventeen (17) samples were positive for curly top virus. Twenty-six (26) samples were not tested and will be reported next month.
- A total of forty-nine (49) beet leafhopper samples were collected in March and sent for virus analysis. Thirty-seven (37) of the samples were positive for curly top virus. Eleven (11) samples were not yet tested and will be reported next month.

Kern County

- Fields in Taft and Maricopa were surveyed for BLH populations and host plant conditions. The majority of the fields had thick and overgrown vegetation. Some “hot spots” occurred in the higher elevation where there was barer ground and sparse host plants. Hot spot BLH counts averaged 5-15 adults per 10 sweeps, with some nymphs.
- In the valley and flat portions of Taft and Maricopa, BLH counts were less than 1 per 10 sweeps. BLH counts were inconsistent.
- Pepper grass, *Plantago*, and filaree were present, however, filaree was the predominant host plant. There was also a lot of London rocket present in the flats and valleys.
- Thirty-two (32) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. None of the samples tested were positive for curly top virus. Eleven (11) samples have not yet been tested and will be reported next month.
- Twelve (12) beet leafhopper samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. Five (5) samples were positive for curly top virus. Five (5) samples were not yet tested and will be reported next month.

Kings County

- The Kettleman Hills continued to be surveyed for BLH populations and host plant conditions. Vegetation was very thick and overgrown. The pepper grass that was present began to stress and dry out, however, the BLH activity remained low. BLH counts were inconsistent and averaged 4-6 adults per 10 sweeps with occasional nymphs.
- Surveys were conducted throughout the Devil’s Den area and McGlashen Ranch. Vegetation was very thick and overgrown and limited locations of suitable BLH habitat. BLH counts averaged 0-1 per 10 sweeps.
- Thirty-nine (39) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. Two (2) were positive for curly top virus. One (1) was not yet tested and will be reported next month.
- Six (6) beet leafhopper samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. Three (3) were positive for curly top virus. Three (3) samples were not yet tested and will be reported next month.

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.
- Six (6) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. None of the samples were positive for curly top virus.
- BLH samples were not obtained due to the low and infrequent observation of BLH in sweep surveys.

San Joaquin 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.
- Five (5) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. None of the samples were positive for curly top virus.
- Two (2) BLH samples were obtained and sent for virus analysis. One (1) sample was positive for curly top virus.

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.
- Seven (7) host plant samples were collected and sent for virus analysis. One (1) sample was positive for curly top virus.
- BLH samples were not obtained due to the low and infrequent observation of BLH in sweep surveys.

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