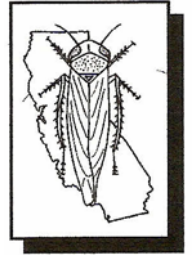


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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Report for January/February
2018

Program-wide notice

- In January, there was a fair amount of rainfall on the west side. The rainfall allowed for filaree and winter grasses to germinate toward the end of the month.
- February was warm and dry during the day, with very little precipitation, and had several very cold and freezing nights. The majority of the filaree that germinated remained stunted, drying and stressing quickly. Pepper grass and *Plantago* were in limited patchy locations and appeared stunted in survey locations. Hillsides and rangeland also had a lot of dried vegetation from last year, making BLH habitat unsuitable. The hillsides that were burned last summer had more favorable BLH habitat because the dry grasses were cleared and a lot of filaree germinated. Even in the more favorable habitat locations, BLH counts were minimal.
- Beet leafhopper (BLH) counts were minimal throughout January and February. Counts varied depending upon location. Some sweep sets produced less than 1 BLH per 10 sweeps, while other sweep sets produced 2-4 adult BLH per 10 sweeps. Sweep counts were inconsistent but overall BLH activity was very low.
- Virus analysis results for host plant samples and BLH samples were mostly negative.
- The first BLH nymphs were observed on February 28, 2018 in Kern County, along Kecks Road. It is unusual to find BLH in that location in spring as this area is normally part of the fall spray campaign. Program personnel will continue to monitor this area. Nymphs were also observed the same day in Fresno County, near Coalinga.
- Typically, by the end of February, personnel would have observed moderate to high numbers of thrips, non-target leafhoppers, aphids, gnats, flies, grasshoppers, beetles, etc. during sweep surveys. Currently, insect activity in general is minimal.
- Program personnel have been monitoring bee box movement and will conduct a bee check with each county once spring treatment maps have been finalized.

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