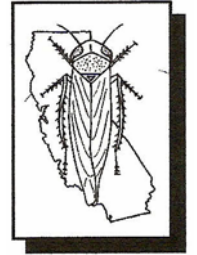


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS MONTHLY REPORT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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

Report for April 2018

Program-wide notice

- The Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program (BCTVCP) conducted aerial treatment in two locations in April; one field in Kings County and one field in Fresno County. Please see treatment map at the end of this report.
 - The first field to be treated was a portion of the Kettleman Hills in Kings County. On April 14, 2018 3,200 acres were treated aurally. This area had pre-treatment BLH counts as high as 200 BLH per 10 sweeps and as low as 20 BLH per 10 sweeps. These BLH counts were from the area that had burned last year. The old growth had been eliminated where the fire burned which cleared the hillside and allowed for filaree, peppergrass and *Plantago* to flourish and created prime habitat for BLH. However, the majority of the Kettleman Hills had last year's overgrown vegetation that was unsuitable habitat for the BLH. BLH counts were minimal in the overgrown areas.
 - There was a 95% reduction in BLH counts post-treatment.
 - The second field to be treated was the Zapato Canyon area at Kreyenhagen Ranch in Fresno County. On April 24, 2018 2,700 acres were treated aurally. This area had pre-treatment BLH counts as high as 80 BLH per 10 sweeps and as low as 20 BLH per 10 sweeps. These BLH counts were from the area that had burned last year. The old growth had been eliminated where the fire burned which cleared the hillside and allowed for filaree, peppergrass and *Plantago* to flourish and created prime habitat for BLH. However, the majority of the hillsides had last year's overgrown vegetation that was unsuitable habitat for the BLH. BLH counts were minimal in the overgrown areas.
 - There was a 97% reduction in BLH counts post-treatment.
- A total of 5,900 acres were treated during the spring treatment campaign.
- Fallow fields and weedy perimeter roads or orchard middles should not be mowed or disked if BLH are present in high numbers. The BCTV Program can conduct surveys to confirm BLH populations and if needed, ground rig spot treatments can be performed prior to disking or mowing.
- The Program began conducting ground rig spot treatment along roadsides and in some fallow fields at the end of April, and will continue to do so as needed.

Fresno County

- BLH population surveys and host plant surveys took place throughout the month of April in the Domengine Ranch area, Chevron and North Chevron properties, Tumey Hills, the Cantua Creek area, and in the properties north and south of Kamm Avenue west of Interstate 5. These areas were overgrown with dried vegetation from last season. Some filaree, peppergrass, and *Plantago* were present on the south facing slopes of these properties, however, suitable BLH habitat was limited. The BLH counts were low in these areas with counts averaging 0-8 BLH per 10 sweeps.
- There was a burned area in Jacolitos Canyon of Fresno County that had very large BLH populations, however, the Program was unable to obtain permission to treat this area. BLH counts were averaging high teens to 50+ per 10 sweeps. Another area called the Gyp-Pits, west of Interstate 5 and south of Manning Avenue, had BLH counts of 25 per 10 sweeps. This area was not treated and is owned by the same property owner as Jacolitos.
- There were thirty-five (35) host plant samples that were submitted to the lab for virus analysis. One (1) sample was positive for curly top virus. Twenty-nine (29) samples were negative for curly top virus. The remaining five (5) samples have not yet been tested. Results will be reported next month.
- There were thirty-two (32) BLH samples submitted to the lab for virus analysis. Thirteen (13) of the samples were positive for curly top virus. Fourteen (14) samples were negative for curly top virus. The remaining five (5) samples have not yet been tested. Results will be reported next month.

Kern County

- Program personnel monitored the historic treatment areas very closely. Suitable BLH habitat was limited but there were sufficient prime host plants available that had the potential for a large BLH hatch. Counts in the Taft area averaged 4-5 BLH per 10 sweeps. Many historical treatment sites had BLH counts between 0-7 per 10 sweeps, with some areas having counts less than that.
- Due to spotty rainfall, various stages of vegetation dry down, and low BLH counts the program monitored the areas very closely. The vegetation wasn't dry enough to produce a hatch and with occasional rainfall, aerial treatment wasn't feasible before the April 15th deadline. The Program was granted an extension from BLM until May 15, 2018 to conduct aerial treatment if necessary. Treatment was not necessary due to low BLH counts.
- The Williams' Lease area that had high BLH counts was not treated. This area is south of Highway 46 and west of Highway 33. BLH counts ranged from 30-50 per 10 sweeps. Waivers were sent to approximately 44 different property owners for this area. While some waivers were returned with permission, BLH counts had also declined. Chevron did not grant permission to treat their property due to Blunt Nose Leopard Lizard. Another property owner with a large amount of property in the treatment area was not able to grant permission in a timely manner and BLH counts had already declined.
- There were thirty-one (31) host plant samples submitted to the lab for virus analysis. Only two (2) of the thirty-one were positive for curly top virus. The remaining twenty-nine (29) samples were all negative for curly top virus.
- There were twenty-five (25) BLH samples submitted to the lab for virus analysis. Eight (8) of the twenty-five were positive for curly top virus. The remaining seventeen (17) samples were all negative for curly top virus.

Kings County

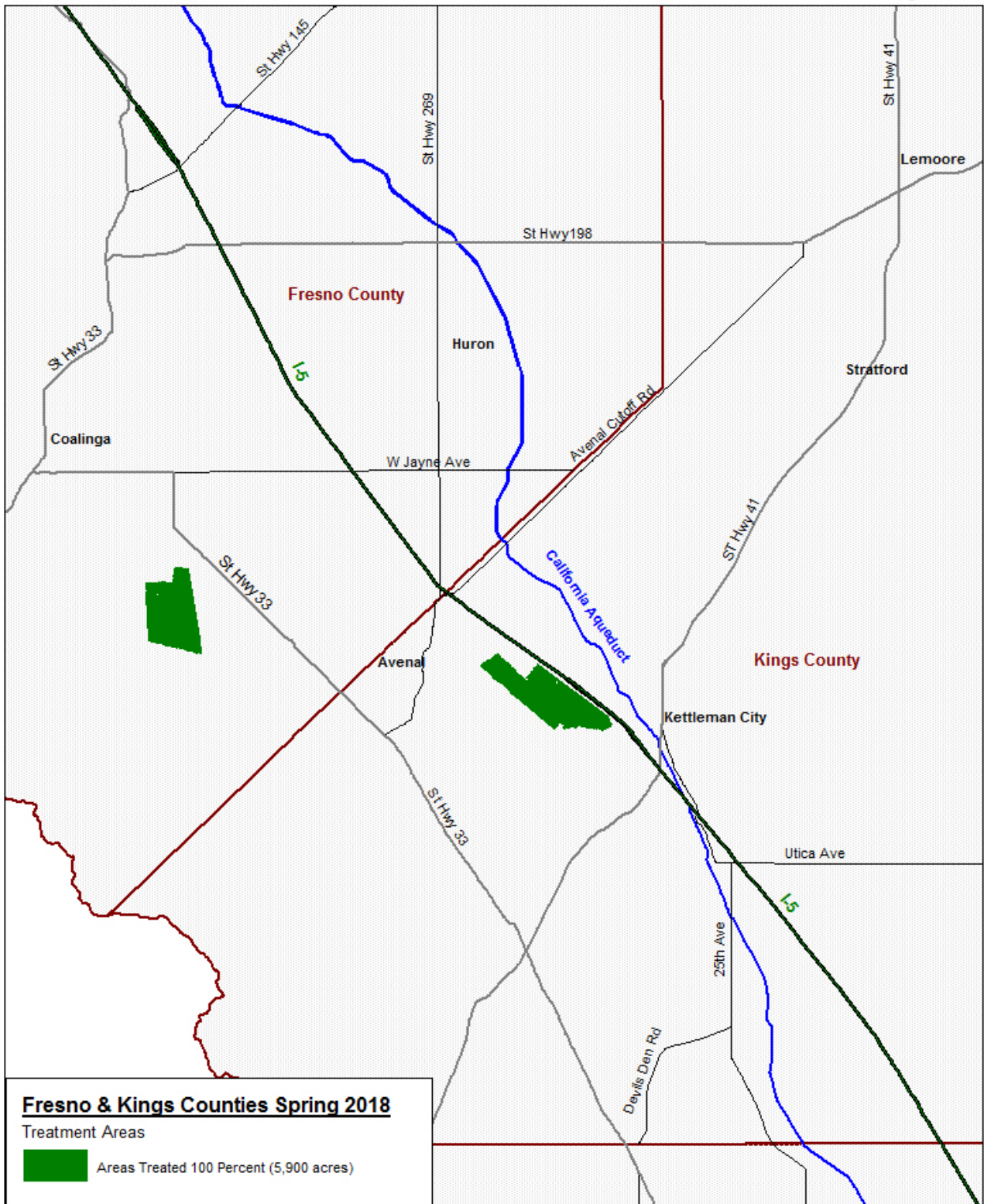
- There were nine (9) host plant samples submitted to the lab for virus analysis. All of the samples tested negative for curly top virus.
- There were five (5) BLH samples submitted to the lab for virus analysis. Three (3) of the five (5) were positive for curly top virus. The remaining two (2) samples were negative.

Monterey County

- BLH population and host plant surveys were conducted the week of April 30, 2018.
- There were no susceptible crops observed and BLH counts were minimal. Roadsides were mostly clean and free of weedy host plants.
- One (1) host plant sample was submitted to the lab for virus analysis but it has not yet been tested. Results will be reported next month.

CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

Spring 2018



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