

## BCTV Grower Alert for January 9, 2015

The recent rainfall in December 2014 germinated a lot of winter annuals that BLH thrive on. Filaree is very widespread and abundant on the hillsides and canyons. *Plantago* is also plentiful in some areas. The dry weather and warm temperatures on the Westside the last few weeks have allowed BLH populations to increase. Alarming high sweep counts in certain areas have been observed:

- High BLH populations in the “Big C” area west of the Coalinga oil fields. Sweep counts averaged 7-8 adult BLH per 10 sweeps.
- High BLH populations in the Coalinga Nose area. Sweep counts averaged 7-8 adult BLH per 10 sweeps.
- High BLH populations in the Kettleman Hills from Devil’s Den road north to Highway 269. Sweep counts averaged 8-10 adult BLH per 10 sweeps.

A “normal” winter count for this time would be an average of 1-2 adult BLH. The National Weather Service 7-day forecast based on the Hanford weather station is expecting day time temperatures to reach near 60 degrees with no chance of rain predicted. If rain is light and sporadic through the rest of the spring, we could potentially have another bad BLH year.

Kern County and Northern Fresno County have abundant BLH host vegetation, but low counts. The Program’s focus at this time, is monitoring the above mentioned areas with high population counts. These unusually high winter BLH counts are concerning and the Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program is anticipating conducting a winter treatment campaign within the next few weeks. Program personnel will continue to monitor BLH populations and the weather to prepare for treatment operations.