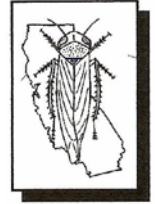


BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS GROWER ALERT



CURLY TOP VIRUS CONTROL PROGRAM

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April 14, 2017

Program-wide notice

- The Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program (BCTVCP) conducted aerial treatment on April 11th, 2017 in Taft. There were two fields that were treated. The Buena Vista hills had BLH counts that ranged from 5-15 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps. A total of 3,600 acres were treated at 100%. The Kitty Care field had BLH counts that ranged from 10-15 adults and nymphs per 10 sweeps. A total of 400 acres were treated at 100%.
- A total of 4,000 acres were treated aerially for beet leafhopper. See attached map.
- Due to the sporadic timing of the rainfall this year, not all of the BLH host plants dried at the same time. There was a lot of dried pepper grass and some drying *Plantago*, however, about 30% of the *Plantago* was green and viable. There could be another BLH hatch when the *Plantago* stresses and dries up completely.
- The BLH samples submitted to the U.C. Davis lab for virus analysis continue to have a strong positive result for curly top virus.
- The Program has requested an extension from BLM on the April 15th deadline for aerial treatment in Kern County. If granted, the Program will treat additional fields as vegetation dries and BLH counts reach treatment threshold, contingent upon weather conditions.
- The Program has begun to survey fallow fields around the valley floor. Ground rig treatment will take place as needed.
- The Program would also like to remind growers and PCA's that any fallow fields should be inspected for BLH prior to disking. If a BLH infestation is present, please use an insecticide first. The Program can be available for BLH surveys and, if needed, treatment of fallow fields where BLH counts reach the treatment threshold.

