



Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program Update

Lauren Murphy

California Dept. of Food and Agriculture

Program Update – Winter Survey

- ▶ January
 - ▶ Little to no precipitation in November, December, and January left Program survey areas in Fresno, Kings, and Kern Counties dry and nearly devoid of overwintering beet leafhopper (BLH) host plants (filaree, peppergrass, *Plantago*)
 - ▶ No BLH activity was observed in the overwintering west side foothills during January





Program Update – Winter Survey

► February

- Late January and early February had a few rain events that started to bring up host plant vegetation in Fresno and Kings Counties; mostly filaree, with some scattered peppergrass
 - Plantago started developing toward the end of February in Fresno and Kern Counties.
- Surveys throughout February saw only the occasional BLH
 - For the most part, surveys in Fresno, Kings, and Kern Counties saw little to no BLH activity
- Host plants started stressing during mid-late February, usually indicating a hatch would soon be observed
 - However, no nymphs were observed during February

Program Update – Spring Survey

- ▶ March
 - ▶ The beginning of March saw ideal BLH habit develop on the south facing slopes in most survey areas: sparse host plant vegetation, less winter grasses and other vegetation overgrowth
 - ▶ However, even with the ideal conditions, BLH activity remained low to non-existent in spring survey areas
 - ▶ In fact, insect activity in general remained extremely limited. The occasional spring grasshopper was observed, but for the most part sweep surveys had clean nets with no insects.
 - ▶ The first BLH nymph was observed in Kings County on March 9. As of March 15, that remains the only nymph observed so far this year.





Program Update – Samples

- ▶ **January**


- ▶ Kings County
 - ▶ 2 host plant samples collected

- ▶ **February**

- ▶ Fresno County
 - ▶ 20 host plant and 3 BLH samples collected
- ▶ Kings County
 - ▶ 2 host plant samples collected
- ▶ Kern County
 - ▶ 2 host plant and 1 BLH sample collected

- ▶ **March**

- ▶ Fresno County
 - ▶ 1 host plant sample collected
- ▶ Kings County
 - ▶ 3 BLH samples pulled from grower sticky traps



Program Update – Moving Forward

- ▶ Program personnel will continue to monitor spring survey areas as long as host plants remain viable
- ▶ Treatments will be conducted only if BLH populations reach treatment thresholds (7-8 BLH per 10 sweeps)
- ▶ Program personnel will send out a grower alert if BLH populations begin to increase in the coming weeks
- ▶ Anyone interested in receiving the BCTV monthly newsletter and grower alerts can subscribe at:
 - ▶ <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/subscriptions/>



Program Contact Information

Lauren Murphy

Senior Environmental Scientist
Supervisor

Email: lauren.murphy@cdfa.ca.gov

Office Phone: 559-294-2031

Cell Phone: 559-907-4460

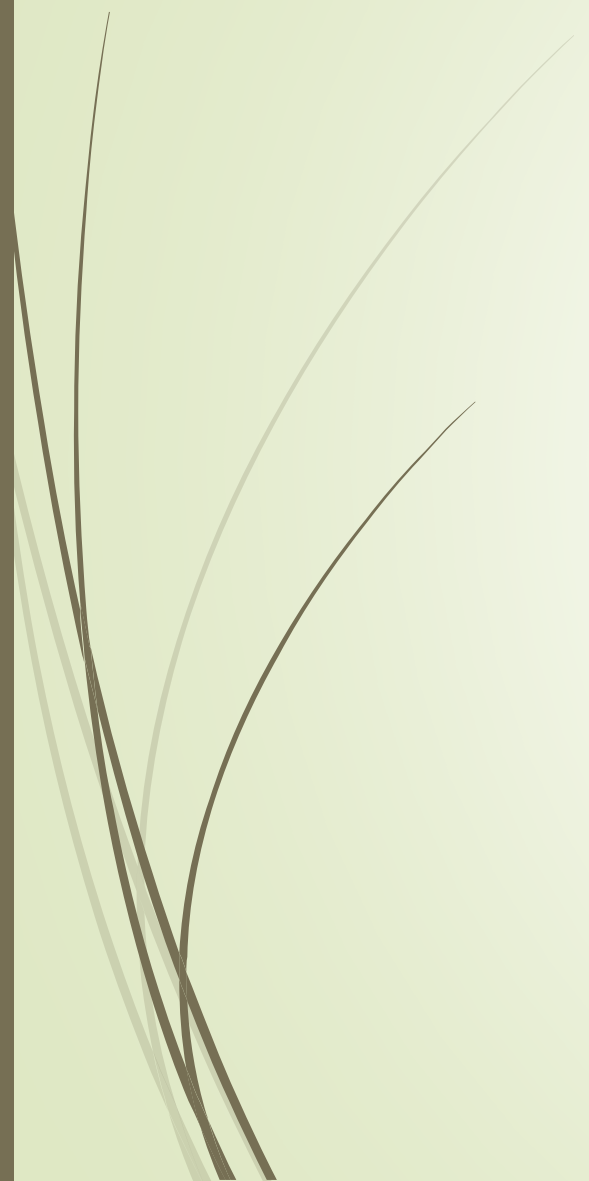
Samuel Krasnobrod

Environmental Scientist

Email: samuel.krasnobrod@cdfa.ca.gov

Office Phone: 559-294-2031

Cell Phone: 916-823-1169



End