

BEET CURLY TOP

Beet Leafhopper Circulifer tenellus



photo by: C. Schlägel



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Identification

- Curly Top is a virus transmitted by the sugarbeet leafhopper
- Leafhoppers overwinter on numerous annual host weeds
- Occurs in semi-arid climates
- The spring hatched leafhoppers will move into the succulent beet vegetation, carrying the virus with them

Detection

- Rolled up leaves that are twisted
- Veins on the leaf underside are rough and produce pumping or swelling
- Cross sectioned root will be blackened
- Many lateral roots may appear, causing a bearded look
- If the infection occurs early in the growth stage, the beets may die or suffer major losses

Control

- Plant early
- Curly top resistant varieties
- Close canopy early
- A border treatment with an insecticide can form a barrier to help suppress damage