

Greetings and I hope all is well and that the growing season is progressing well!

We are hoping that things are quiet on the virus front in your fields thus far as you haven't been bringing us any samples! No news is good news, right? But we miss seeing you!

In Ventura, things have been quiet on the virus and psyllid yellows fronts so far.

In Yolo, we our monitoring with Jordan Fricke of Muller Ag has been going well. These have been mostly casabella and sriracha peppers. There were relatively high thrips populations early in the season, but these have dropped over the past weeks. We are seeing spotted wilt in these fields, but at low incidences (trace to <5%). One cascabella field had more alfalfa mosaic virus than we typically see, and Jordan indicated he has seen more of this virus this season. In the one bell pepper field we are monitoring that has resistant (Tsw) peppers, we are seeing some infection by what we think is resistance-breaking TSWV, but at a very low incidence.

I would also like to bring to your attention about a new invasive thrips species, the pepper thrips (*Thrips parvispinus*) that was introduced into southern Florida in 2025 and has spread to Sinaloa Mexico and even to Ontario Canada. It was found on transplants in big box stores in San Diego County last year but apparently recognized and stopped from spreading. The thrips causes feeding damage to young leaves including severely distorted growth and scarring of pepper fruits (see attached). Fortunately, this thrips does not transmit TSWV or other viruses. The adults are smaller in size than Western flower thrips and the females are a distinctive dark black color.

Soon after we learned of this new thrips, Tom Turini sent us some peppers from the Fresno area with severely distorted young leaves and we were worried it was due to pepper thrips. However, we did not find these thrips and it was 'fortunately' confirmed to be due to infection by beet curly top virus (BCTV) and the incidence in the field was very low.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Bob