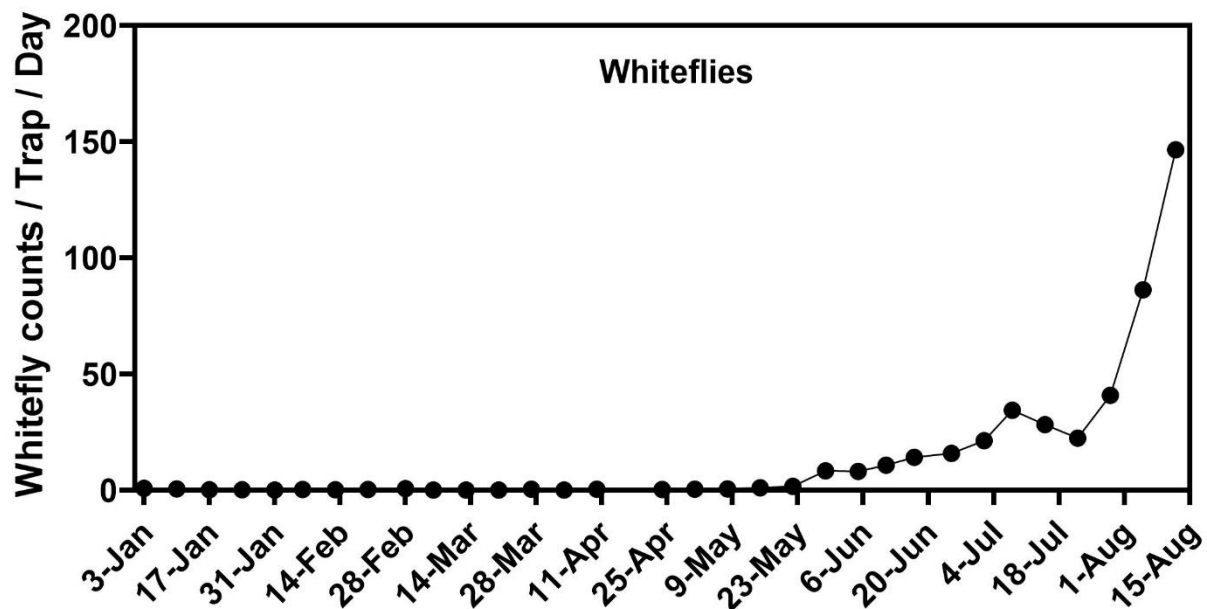


Area-wide monitoring of key insect pests across the Imperial Valley: 15th Aug 2025 updates

The adult insect counts from the monitoring trap network up to Aug 12th, 2025, are shown in the graphs below. Each dot in the graph represents the average insect count from 19 traps across the Imperial Valley for that sampling week, expressed as insect counts per trap per day.

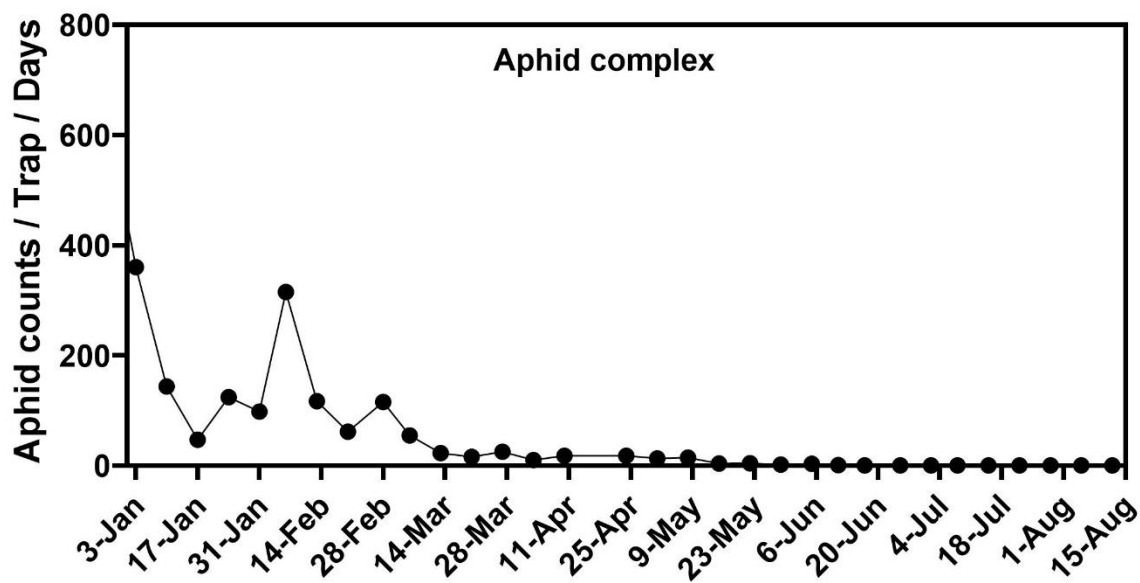
Whiteflies

The whitefly counts in the traps consisted mainly of sweetpotato whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci* MEAM1). A small fraction of the total count (< 5%) comprises bandedwinged whiteflies, *Trialeurodes abutilonia*, and other minor species. Our trap data indicates that their numbers are rapidly rising across the Valley.



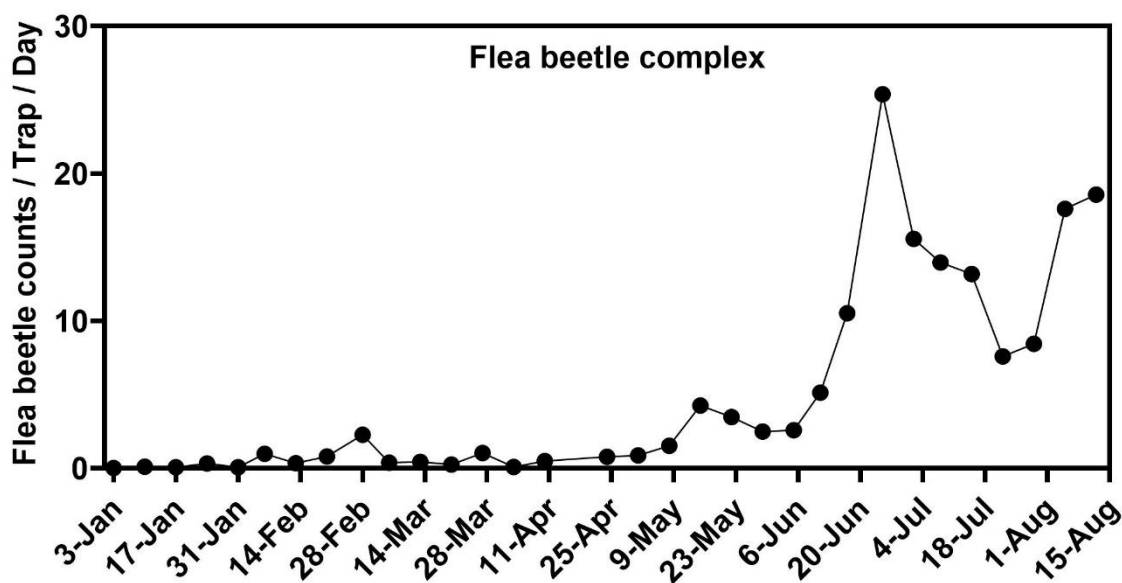
Aphids

The trap count data of aphids below represents the aphid complex present in the Valley. Currently, we are observing near-zero alate aphid activity throughout the Imperial Valley.



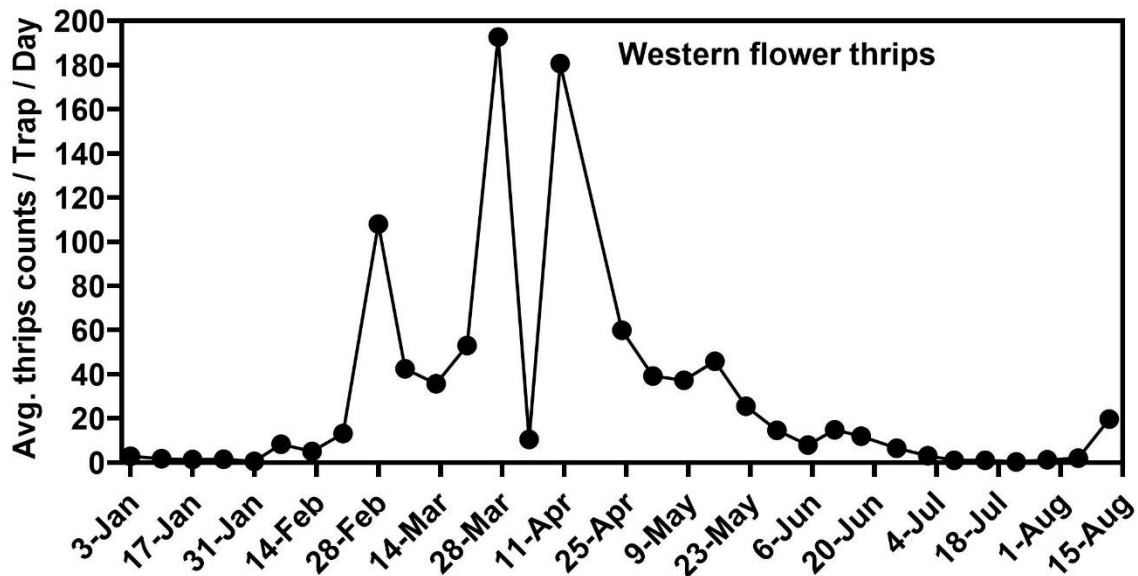
Flea beetles

The flea beetle counts in the traps comprised the pale-striped flea beetle, *Systema blanda*, the desert corn flea beetle, *Chaetocnema ectypa*, and a few other minor species. We are currently observing high levels of adult activity across the valley. Additional weekly sweep net sampling of multiple alfalfa fields across the Imperial Valley identified high flea beetle adult populations in some of these fields. I will be monitoring their numbers in these fields over the next few weeks as we approach the fall vegetable planting season.



Western flower thrips

While the traps capture several thrips species, only western flower thrips, *Frankliniella occidentalis*, were counted to provide more specific data, as they are the primary thrips species of concern for several crops in the Imperial Valley. Currently, we are logging low adult counts in the traps.



As a side note, we are observing **increasing numbers of bermudagrass stem maggot adults** (*Atherigona reversura*) in the yellow stick traps. Please look for signs of damage (see below) when scouting the bermudagrass fields. Please refer to [this article](#) by Michael D. Rethwisch to learn more about this pest.



Bermudagrass stem maggot damage symptoms. The larvae feeding inside the stem, outward from the terminal node of the plants, kill the top one or two leaves in the plants.



Bermudagrass stem maggot larvae (left) and adult (right).

If you are interested in additional data or have questions or comments, contact Arun Babu at (442) 265 -7700 or arbabu@ucanr.edu.