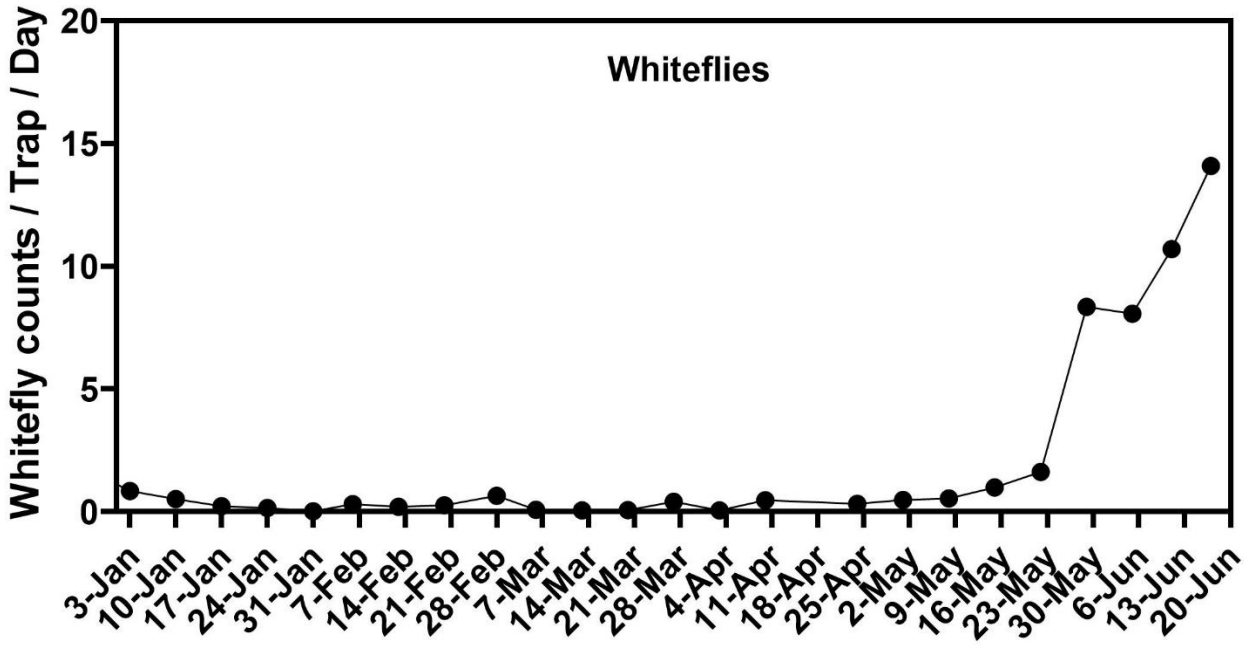
Area-wide monitoring of key insect pests across the Imperial Valley: 22nd June 2025 updates

The adult insect counts from the monitoring trap network up to June 18, 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 the number of insects per trap per day.

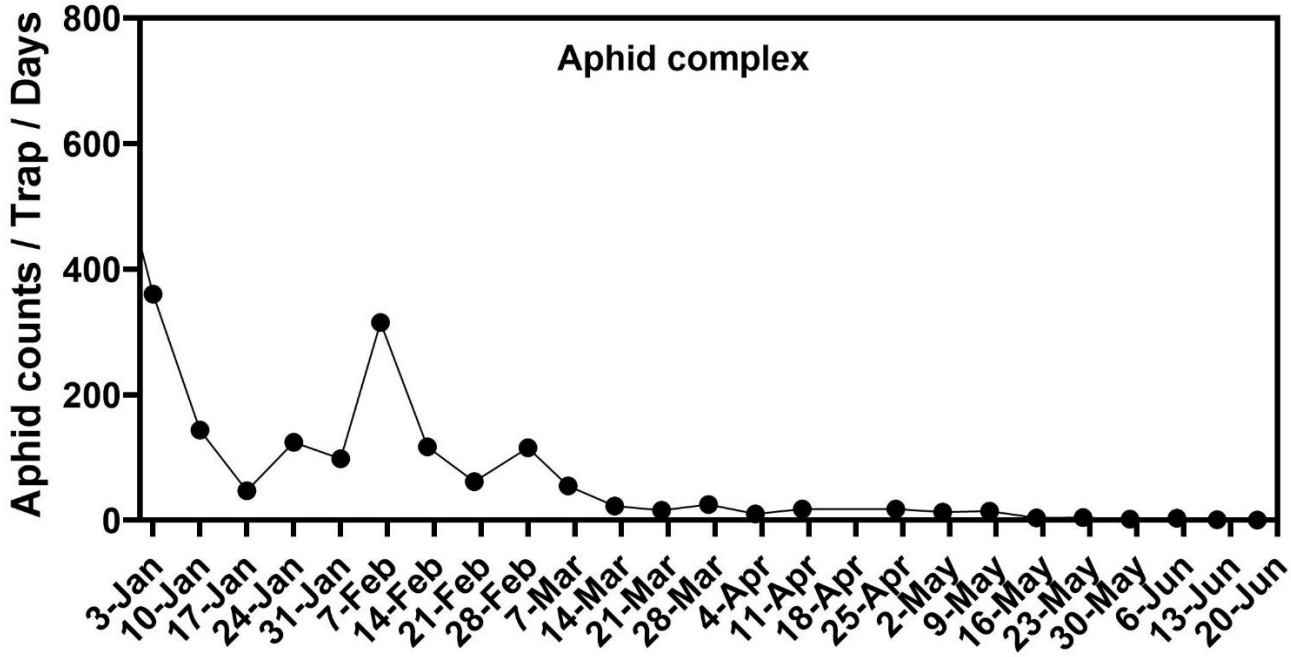
Whiteflies

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. Based on out trap capture data, the **whitefly population in the Imperial Valley is rapidly increasing**.



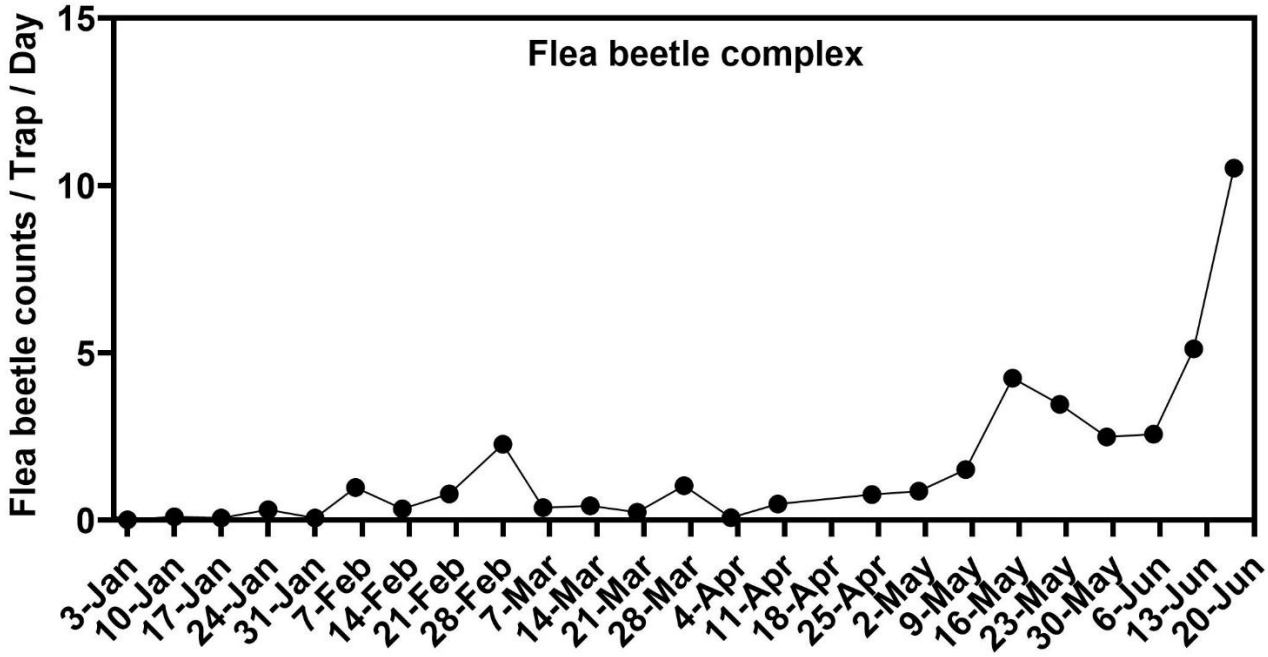
Aphids

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.



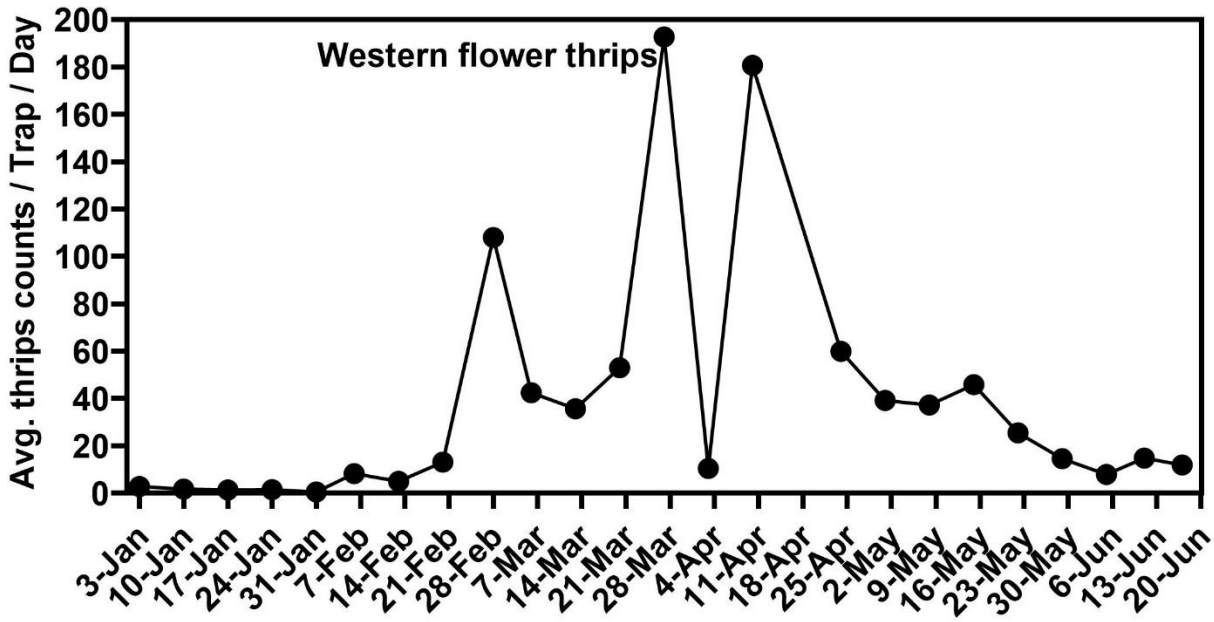
Flea beetles

The flea beetle counts in the traps comprised the pale-striped flea beetle, *Systena blanda*, the desert corn flea beetle, *Chaetocnema ectypa,* and a few other minor species. Currently, we are observing a **high level of flea beetles adult activity** across the valley.



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.



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