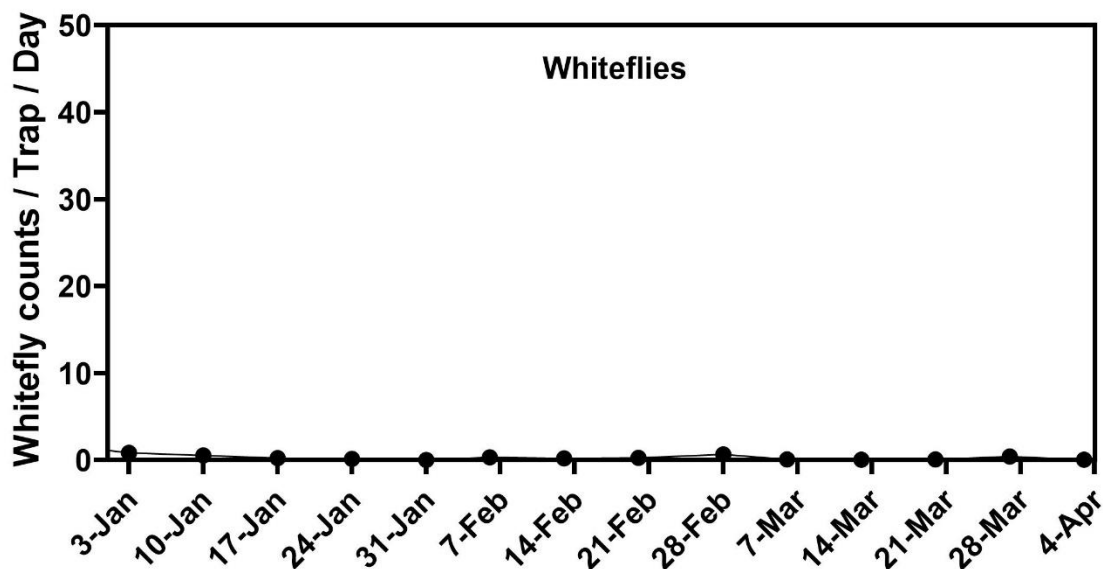


Area-wide monitoring of key insect pests across the Imperial Valley: 7th April 2025 updates

The adult insect counts from the monitoring trap network until 3rd April 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.

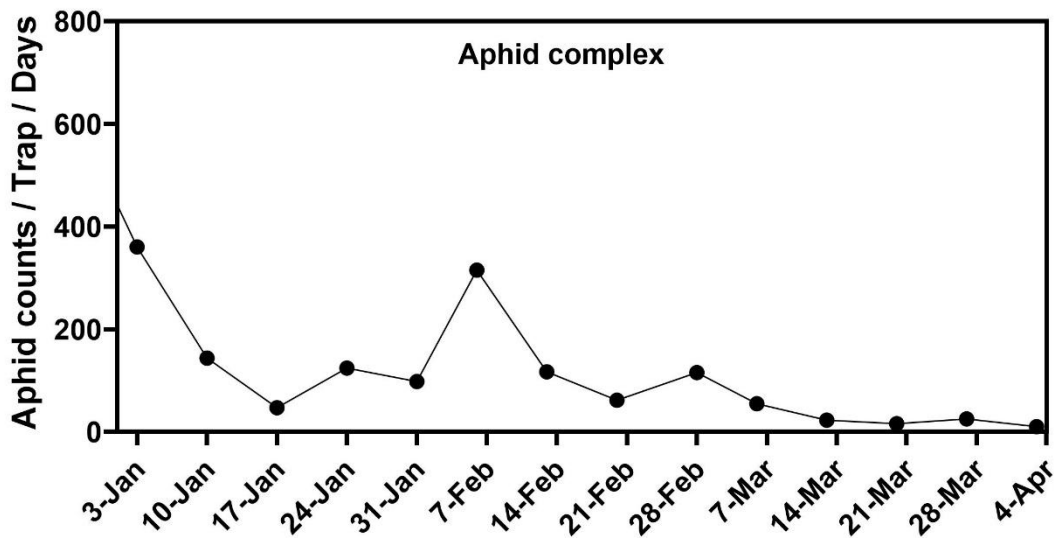
Whiteflies

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. We observed a decrease in their numbers in the traps starting from mid-September 2024. Over the last couple of months, the number of adult whiteflies captured in our traps has been at a very low level.



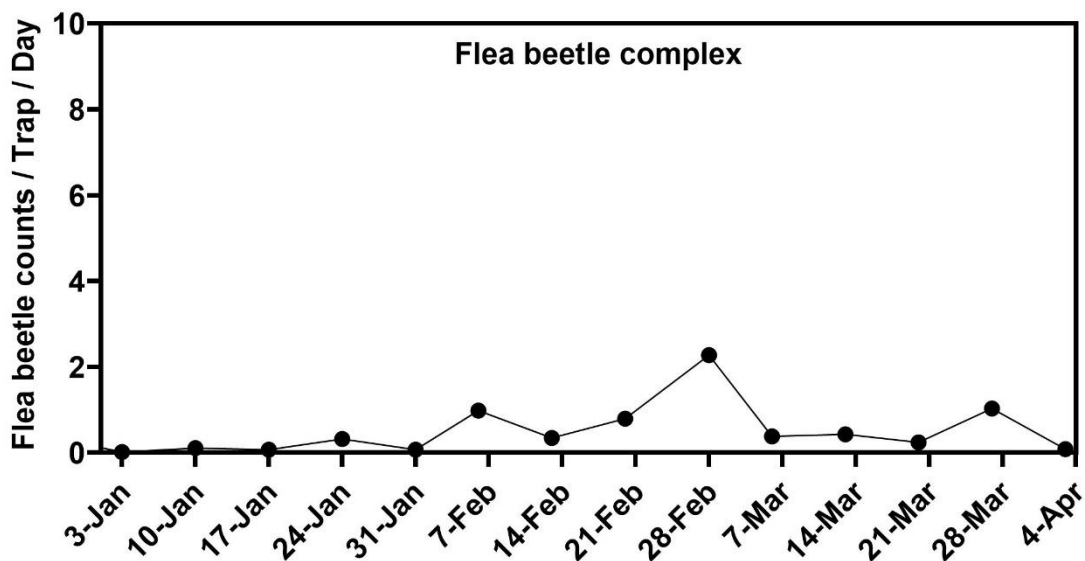
Aphids

The trap count data of aphids below represents the aphid complex present in the Valley. Currently, we are observing relatively low adult alate aphid activity throughout the Imperial Valley, and the overall numbers in the traps indicate a declining trend.



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. Currently, the trap captures of adult flea beetles are at a low level.

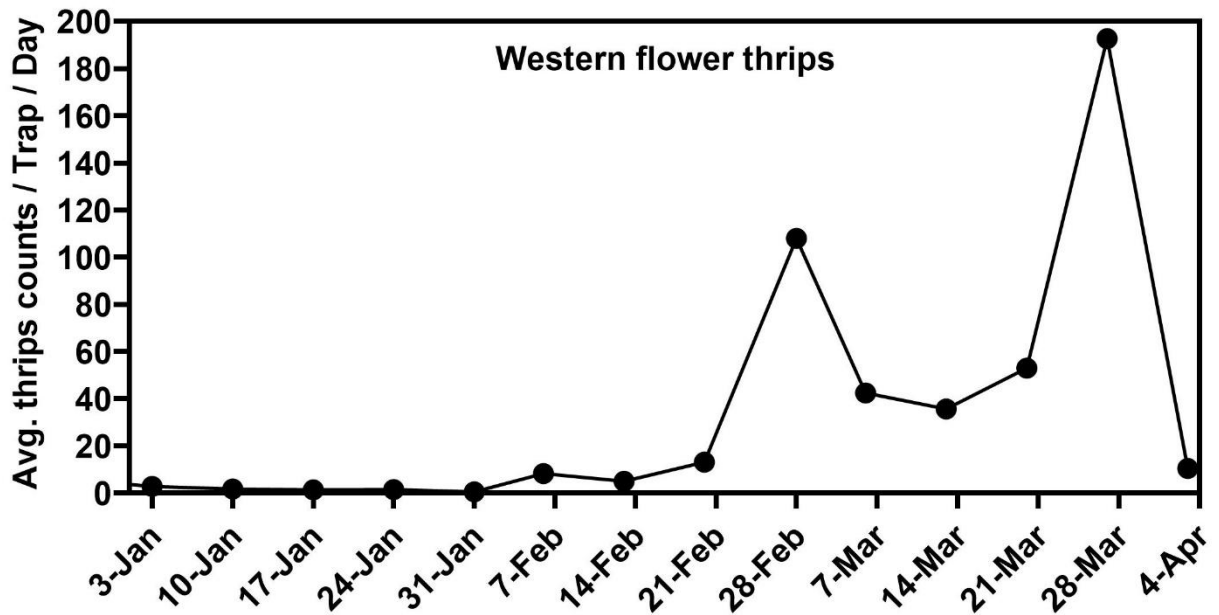


Western flower thrips

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. **The number of western flower thrips adults captured in the traps has been high for the last few weeks.**

Their numbers in the traps peaked in the last week of March, and we have seen a significant decrease in their captures in traps over the last week. This dip in trap capture is likely a temporary effect resulting from the windy conditions experienced over the past week. The wind can affect the insect's flight towards the traps and reduce the number of insects landing on its sticky surface. Additionally, windblown dust covers the trap's sticky surface, interfering with the trap's insect capture efficacy. Therefore, **despite the low number of western flower thrips in our latest trap counts, please continue to actively scout for thrips in your crops.**



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