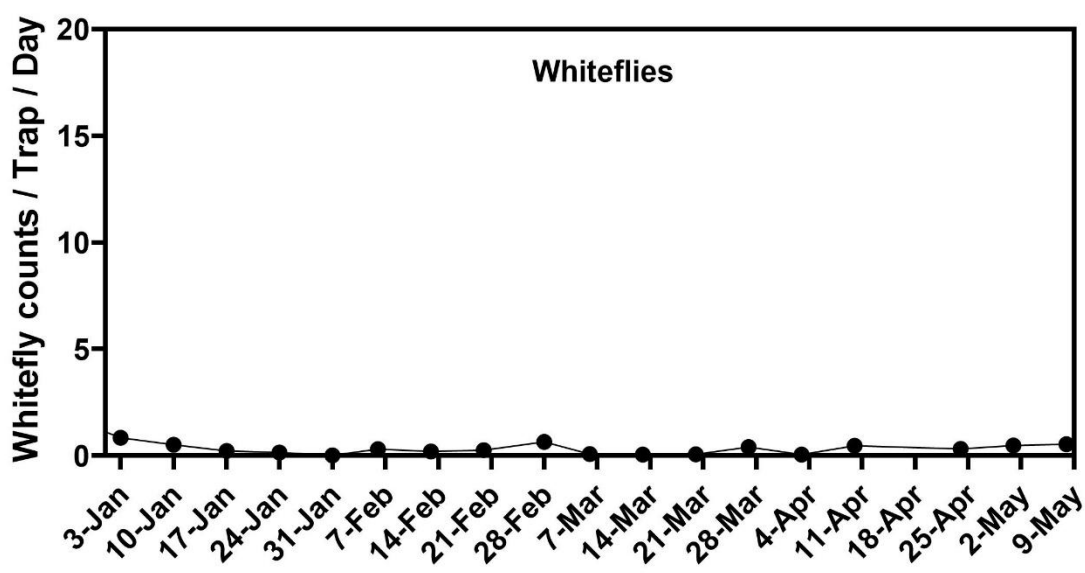


## Area-wide monitoring of key insect pests across the Imperial Valley: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 updates

The adult insect counts from the monitoring trap network until 8<sup>th</sup> May 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.

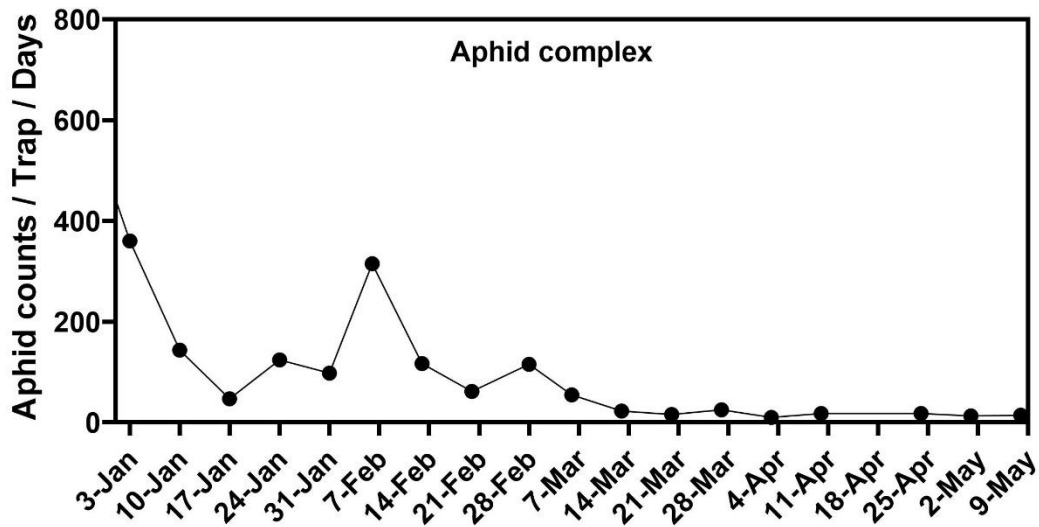
### Whiteflies

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 few months, the number of adult whiteflies captured in our traps has been very low. That being said, I scouted various melon fields across the Imperial Valley over the last few weeks, though variable, some low levels of whitefly activity were observed in almost all the fields. As the temperature rises, expect their number to increase in the susceptible crops, even if our trap captures stay low, as these trap captures represent the overall activity across the Valley and are less predictive of individual field situations.



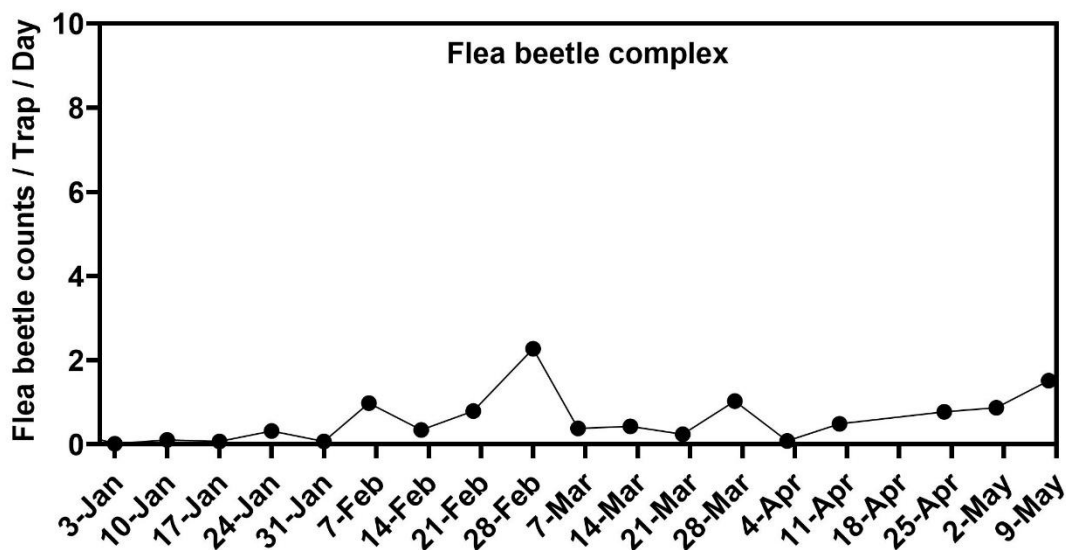
## Aphids

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.



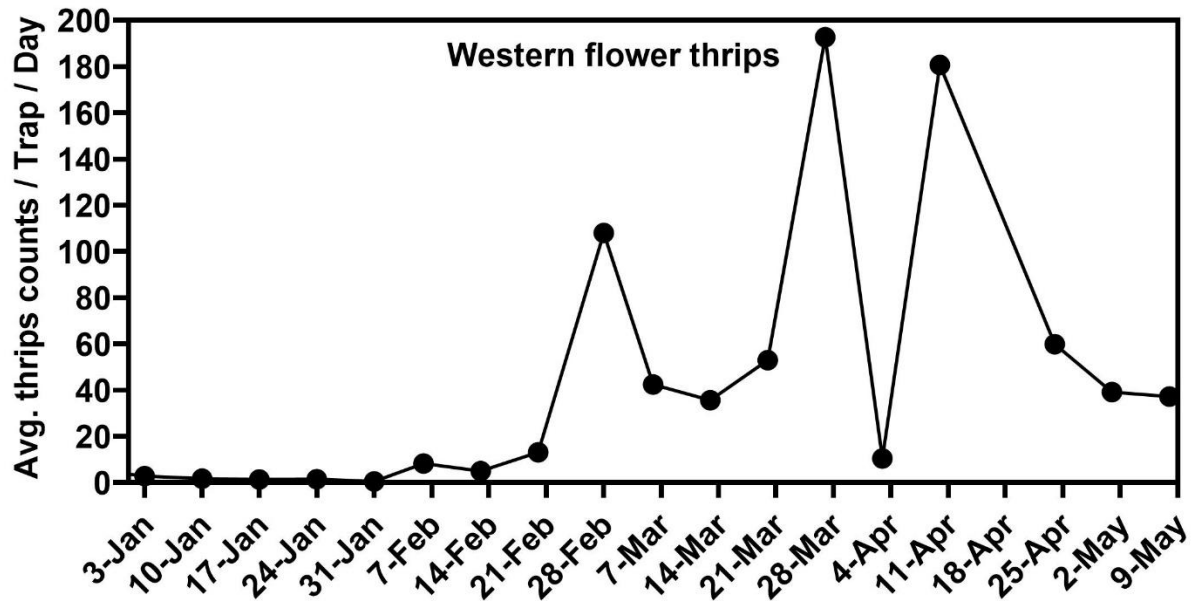
## Flea beetles

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. Currently, we are observing moderate to low levels of adult activity.



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](mailto:arbabu@ucanr.edu).