Lower Kula Update
E. Fujitani

Melon fly population levels have gone up the past month from 4.0 to 5.54 CPTD (catch per trap day). Increases in trap counts may be due to migration of flies from the pastures to farmsites because of parching vegetation, movement of flies from nearby infested farms, and from wild bittermelon hosts in the surrounding areas and cane fields. A majority of the farms are experiencing good yields from zucchini and cucumber crops due to the warmer summer weather. The farmers are experiencing Melon fly infestation levels ranging from 1 to under 10%. There are a few farmsites that are experiencing higher than normal fruit fly damage even with the implementation of the suppression tactics, which is a concern to the grower, buyer and area wide crew. The Area wide crew will be researching for this possible increase in fruit fly activity and offer recommendations to address this problem so that growing cucurbit crops will be economically profitable for the producer.

Lahaina Mango
L. Fujitani

Located only a block from the ocean and near a shopping mall the Nobu family’s ten mango trees are rarities in the bustling resort town of Lahaina. Alberta Nobu’s parents planted the trees over fifty years ago when they first moved to the then-new Wahikuli subdivision. Today, their Hayden, Kini, Fairchild, and common mango trees continue to produce fruit. As new developments replace old plantation camps mangoes are no longer a common sight as you drive through Lahaina. But, because of Alberta’s care and diligence her friends and neighbors can still enjoy a juicy fresh, or pickled mango.

Alberta Nobu makes her own fruit fly trap using discarded mayonnaise jars and methyl eugenol. Methyl eugenol is a powerful lure that attracts male Oriental fruit flies whose host plants include mango. Fruit flies make their way into the jar through the one or two tiny holes in the lid. These flies are trapped because they cannot find their way out, and eventually die. This “attract-and-kill” technique is effective in reducing the male population and fewer males mean less chance of reproduction. Lures can last for weeks to months in the field.

Trapping using male lures is one of three fruit fly suppression techniques used by the backyard growers involved in the Hawaii Area-Wide Fruit Fly Integrated Pest Management Program. Along with field sanitation and protein bait applications, fruit fly trapping allows Hawaii growers to gain control over their fruit fly troubles!

Oriental Fruit Fly Suppression
E. Fujitani

The Maui Area wide crew had a busy June, recharging male annihilation traps baited with methyl eugenol in Kula. The main concept behind male annihilation is the reduction of males in a population to impact frequency of fertile mating, resulting in a decline in population. The 251 traps were first set out in fruit tree sites consisting of mango, citrus, lychee, mountain apple, starfruit, peaches, and other host crops in February. Monitoring data indicates a continuing decline of the Oriental fruit fly population from 6.46 in January to present of 0.9 flies caught per trap day. With the continuing decrease in Oriental fruit fly levels, we are hopeful that the remaining mango season will yield better quality fruits with less fruit fly infestation.

UH-CES Research Support
Earl Fujitani may be contacted at (808) 878-1213, 424 Mauna Place, Kula, Hawaii 96790, or via email at fruitflyn@ctahr.hawaii.edu.

Linda Fujitani is a UH-CES Junior Extension Agent. She may be contacted at (808) 878-1213, 424 Mauna Place, Kula, Hawaii 96790, or via email at fruitflyn@ctahr.hawaii.edu.
“No more flies,” says long time Kula persimmon grower John Hashimoto as he picks a peach right off the tree and bites into it, not worried about fruit fly larvae. Residents in the past years have made jokes about eating infested fruit, like eating peaches in a dark closet so you won’t know if you ate a worm, and to always carry a pocketknife while picking peaches so that you can cut out the stung part. Residents have accepted this situation in past years by not picking the fruits, just letting them fall to the ground because “they’re all stung anyway.” But, this has changed over the past two years, and residents are finding that they can enjoy sting-free fruits, which they are able to share with friends, family and non-profit organizations. Gardeners can finally eat the ‘fruits of their labor’ after tending to their trees year after year.

Recent mass trapping data at persimmon farms remain low, ranging from 0.002 to 0.17 flies caught per trap day, or CPTD. Persimmon cooperators have just recharged their Bio-lure traps, and all commented, “Hardly any flies.” Baseline and Grid monitoring trap data is currently at 0.08 CPTD.