Lower Kula Update
E. Fujitani

In lower Kula, the weather conditions seem to be stabilizing, but there are unexpected rains that come in and disrupt farm practices. However, like one grower had said, “that’s farming, you learn from the past and like a tractor, (you) just move forward and keep on going.”

Melon fly population levels have continued to decrease over the weeks; the current monitoring catch per trap per day (CPTD) is at 3.65, a gradual decline since February, in which the CPTD was at 8.31. Yes, the growers are moving forward because a year ago CPTD levels was at 6.54, and the year before that the CPTD was at 25.36. Growers have incorporated suppression tactics in their farming practices and are thus experiencing better yields and are more consistent with their production.

Over the years the population has grown and now, more people seem to be consuming more vegetables. Our Area wide crew has noticed larger plantings of cucurbit crops, perhaps because of the increase in demand for local grown vegetables. Infestation on the majority of farm sites are well below 10%, and as growers incorporate the use of Sudex trap crops, melon fly populations will further be suppressed.

Upper Kula Update
E. Fujitani

A majority of the peach trees are at the fruit drop stage with the exception of a few varieties, which will be maturing soon. Medfly population levels remain low throughout the Kula implementation zone, as monitoring data catch per trap per day (CPTD) is at 0.05. The suppression of Medfly has progressed very well through collaborative effort over the past three years. A year ago CPTD was at 0.29 and the year before the CPTD was 24. These low fruit fly levels are a reflection of the HAW-FLYPM suppression tactics. To review, we strongly encourage residents to practice sanitation, since each fruit is capable of hosting many fruit fly eggs. The preventative method is to destroy or remove the infested fruits from your orchard before the larvae has a chance to emerge and pupate in the ground. Sanitation practices include, but are not limited to: composting, drowning (at least 48 hours), bagging in plastic bags, burying at least 18 inches deep, curbside trash pickup which will be hauled to landfill and feed for animals like pigs or goats. Continued application of protein bait sprays and mass trapping with male lures also help to keep fly population levels low. Everyone’s effort is crucial for the continued suppression of the fruit flies and the rewards of enjoying the seasonal fruits without fruit fly stings.

UH-CES Research Support
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Oriental Fruit fly Suppression

L. Fujitani

The Oriental fruit fly is the focus of the Kula Area Wide Crew for 2004. Presently there are 33 cooperator sites with a wide variety of fruiting trees. Area wide crew has set out over 250 male annihilation traps baited with the methyl eugenol attractant. The objective of the male annihilation is to reduce males in the population, which will reduce the frequency of fertile matings. Presently, the monitoring data catch per trap per day (CPTD) is at .99, a decrease from December, which was at 30 CPTD, and down a year ago from 1.27. With the seasonal changes in the fruiting trees, suppression efforts must be stepped up prior to flowering to ensure a good fruit harvest. The Area wide crew has been applying GF-120 weather permitting on these sites.

Neighborhood Fruit Fly Watch

L. Fujitani

Some Haiku residents are protecting their home gardens from fruit flies. Concerned about the fruit fly population in her backyard, Diane Morgan organized a fruit fly workshop at her home in Haiku. She invited her neighbors Joan Spilken, Susan Morris, Bev Livingston, Irene Ryding, and Kathy Lindsey to morning brunch and while the group sipped their Kona coffee, we explained the importance of sanitation, male lures, and protein bait. Wild guava trees along the roadside and in Haiku gulches make the area a hot spot for Oriental fruit flies.

Kathy Lindsey was introduced to the HAWFLYPM program at a Master Gardener’s workshop in 2003 and incorporates fruit fly suppression tactics in her backyard garden in Haiku. “Sanitation is the most important step in controlling the fruit fly population,” insist Lindsey, who is out in her garden four days a week. Kathy and her husband Ed raise a vegetable garden and grow a variety of fruit trees on their two acre plot in Haiku.

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Upcoming Workshop in Pearl City, Oahu: July 28, 2004

Mango season is here and so are the fruit flies! We will be discussing fruit fly suppression techniques and distributing tools you need to combat those pests. Tell your friends and neighbors!

Register by July 21 at 453-6050; if you need special assistance, please let us know 2 weeks in advance. Workshop starts at 9:30am, at the Pearl City Urban Garden Center