Site Selection for GF-120 Applications

Melon fly trap catches in Lalamilo Farm lots remain low relative to fly populations in the previous year (right), but the melon fly persists in the neighborhoods. How do we find them? Traps placed throughout Kamuela tell us where the population is concentrated. We use this information to calculate an average catch in flies/trap/day (FTD). Then we take a ratio of each trapping site to the overall average (right). From this table we select the highest sites for application of GF-120 bait spray, to kill both male and female flies as they roost in vegetation.

Although the current average B-M catch is 0.12 FTD and the grid average reflects that (right), you can see that some sites have had relatively high fly catch in the past 4 weeks. It is these problem areas, where infested fruit is left to rot on the ground that the melon fly population survives, every ready to bounce back as soon as we take the pressure off. The success in Lalamilo is due largely to the cooperation of the growers in removing infested fruit from their fields and spraying GF-120 provided by the USDA.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with current updates on fruit fly populations in the Kamuela area. We hope this information will be useful to you.

Jari S. Sugano
HAW-FLYPM Extension Coordinator

HAW-FLYPM is a USDA- Agricultural Research Service funded partnership with the University of Hawaii, Cooperative Extension Service and Hawaii State Department of Agriculture.