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

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HAW-FLYPM
Hawaii Area Wide Fruit Fly Integrated Pest Management Program

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Med Fly Numbers Still Low

On October 10-11, 2001, Biolure traps deployed in the mass trapping Medfly program for persimmon orchards in Upper Kula were collected and recharged with fresh attractant and new sticky inserts. The next Biolure recharge is tentatively scheduled for November 28 – 29, 2001 and recharge should cover the rest of the persimmon season.

Harvesting has begun on three of nine cooperating farms. The outstanding farms do not anticipate harvesting until the end of October / early November. Early persimmon harvests are of the Maru variety with harvesting of the Fuyu variety to follow. Growers who have begun harvesting reported very low infestation rates. One grower estimated an infestation rate of 1 – 5% (so far) this year. This rate was lower than the 10% infestation rate that he previously considered to be a good (low) rate.

The latest weekly catch from the monitoring traps was averaged for each farm (3 traps per farm). Trap catches at monitoring sites decreased at 8 of the 9 farms. Average trap catches of monitoring traps at the 9 participating farms on the October 7, 2001 trap service was 2.99 flies/trap/day, down from the 4.05 flies/trap/day previously reported, with 71% being female.

A quick count of total flies caught was made for all recovered Medfly mass-trapping suppression traps per farm. Flies/trap/day (FTD) averaged 1.36 for the 9 farms, ranging from 0.026 to 10.9.

Farm averages based on total fly counts from mass-trapping suppression traps should be a better representation of total on-farm Medfly population levels than monitoring trap averages due to the increase in trap numbers and wider distribution of traps in potential higher Medfly population areas.

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