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 Extension Agent

Med Fly Populations are Dropping
Med fly population levels in upper Kula appear to be lower than this time last year (see graph to the right). We cannot pin point the drop in fruit fly populations to any one suppression technology. However, we feel that an increase in area wide field sanitation (taking infested fruit out of the field), intensity of trapping effort and routine change of trap attractants (lures) could have contributed to the drop in population.

Due to the cycle of fruit host in Kula (loquat, peaches, nectarine, citrus, persimmon, etc.), the Medfly population can be maintained throughout the entire year. Grant McQuate, USDA-ARS biologist leads the HAW-FLYPM team in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Biolure Mass Trapping/Suppression Program for the Upper Kula area of Maui.

What is Biolure?
Biolure consist of a set of three chemical release packets. These three chemicals in combination produce an attractive odor that attracts the male and female Medfly as well as other Hawaiian tephritid fruit fly species. The chemical packets are stuck onto the inside walls of a yellow bottom McPhail trap (photo to right). In this mass trapping trial, one trap was set out for every 5-persimmon trees. Effectiveness of the Biolure and mass-trapping program will be assessed at the end of this year's persimmon fruiting season.

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