PROGRAM UPDATE

Removal of culled fruit from fields can greatly reduce the build up of fruit fly populations on-farm. During discussions with growers in the Kula area, project members learned that grower practices included the removal and destruction (tillage) of culled fruits on-farm. In addition, a few growers noted drowning culled or stung fruit to minimize in-field fruit fly populations.

As a result, HAW-FLYPM conducted a trial at the Kula Experiment Station to uncover fruit fly population levels in culled fruit drowned in water versus whole culled fruit.

In this study, whole culled fruits (DRY) served as a control group (17.25 Lbs.). A second sample of culled fruits (17.25 Lbs.) was drowned for duration of 2 days (WET). Three replications were performed. Fruits were placed in buckets with sandy bottoms to collect pupae and larvae left in fruit. Adult flies reared out of fruits were used to analyze the findings below.

The Findings: Whole Culled Fruit vs. Drowned Fruit

A total of 834 adult melon flies were reared out of the whole culled fruit (DRY), while 96 adult melon flies emerged from the fruit drowned in water for 2 days (WET).

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