Med Fly Numbers Remain Low

Bioulre traps used in the mass trapping medfly program for persimmon orchards in Upper Kula were collected and recharged with fresh attractant and new sticky inserts on November 28, 2001. This recharge will cover the rest of the persimmon season.

Preliminary feedback from growers in the med fly zone (Upper Kula) indicate low med fly damage this persimmon season. One grower said, “This year we have nearly a 100 percent control.”

Some growers estimate damage to be less than 1% compared to 10 to 25% in most years. At this stage of the season, stings are usually as high as 90%, at some farms. However, due to low number of stings this season, growers are capable of leaving fruit longer on trees thereby extending their harvesting season (Figure 4). Bird damage and insects such as mealy bugs, mites and thrips have become more of a concern this year than the med fly.

Trimedlure (TML) traps collected in October 2001 from the baseline or on-farm regions in Kula averaged 0.19 med fly per trap per day (FTD). Similarly, TML traps collected on November 5, 2001 from the area wide or grid region (44 square kilometer region) of Kula show population levels as low as 0.18 FTD (Figure 3). Thus, med flies throughout Kula are relatively low in comparison to med fly populations in the past. Fly populations from Bioulre traps collected on November 28, 2001 will be calculated and summarized in the next HAW-FLYPM newsletter.

Ping Sun Leung and Stuart Nakamoto, University of Hawaii Economist will team up with HAW-FLYPM to assess the economical impact of this mass trapping program on persimmon farms in Kula. The specific goal of this cooperative research is to provide economic benefit-cost assessments of the area-wide program both at the farm as well as regional levels.

The economics of the proposed pest management technologies and their appropriate combination at the farm level for selected major crops at each of the selected program areas (Kula and Kamuela) will be evaluated and compared using partial budgeting. Incremental costs and benefits such as yield increase, cost reduction, and quality enhancement will be estimated to derive the net benefits. The economics of the area-wide pest management program for each of the selected program areas will also be evaluated to form a regional perspective whereby a social benefit-cost analysis will be conducted.