Fruit flies are one of the most destructive pests to Hawaii’s agricultural industry and backyard fruits and vegetables, infesting over 400 varieties of fruits and vegetables. Currently, there are four fruit fly species of economic importance in Hawaii. They are: 1) melon fly, 2) Mediterranean fruit fly, 3) Oriental fruit fly, and 4) Malaysian or the Solanaceous fruit fly.

Fruit fly suppression in backyard gardens is as simple as 1, 2, 3, & 4. Simple techniques such as 1) population monitoring, 2) field sanitation, 3) protein bait sprays and 4) male annihilation can help minimize fruit fly infestations and build up.

**Step One: Population Monitoring**

**Know your pests.**

![Melon Fly Image](image)

**Melon Fly**

*Bactrocera cucurbitae* (Coquillett)

**Identification:** Large black spot at wing tip and black cross streak on the wing. Host crops include squash, cucumber, melon, tomato, guava, eggplant, papaya, bittermelon, etc.

Melon fly, introduced in 1895, is a major economic pest of cucurbits such as melons, squashes, and pumpkins as well as solanaceous vegetables such as eggplants, tomatoes, and peppers.

**Attractant Selection**

Fruiting vegetables, such as melons, cucumbers, and squash, are usually attacked by the melon fly. The proper male lure for melon fly is cuelure. Monitoring traps should be placed in and around roosting host crops. Melon flies favor roosting in cultivated crops such as corn, and wild weeds such as castor bean, spiny amaranth, rattlepod, wild Euphorbia, cocklebur, and sorghum. A minimum of 3 monitoring traps per area is recommended.
Create a Trap
Materials Needed:

- Plastic container with cap, cover or lid
- Flexible & strong metal wire
- Plastic fruit fly specific male lure: Cuelure
- Sticky cards or soapy water

A Step by Step
Do It Yourself

- Create hole at the top or side of bottle. String wire through (Fig. 1).
- Conform wire to make a hook like structure for hanging.
- Add an inner hook for male lure placement (Fig 2).
- Affix wire to bottle.
- Utilize the plastic fruit fly specific male lure: Cuelure (Fig 3).
- Make medium size holes on the side of the bottle / container. This enables the fly to enter the container (Fig. 4a/4b).
- Insert a sticky card OR use soapy water on the bottom of trap.
  
  **SOAPY WATER:** (Fig. 5)

  Place soapy water in the bottom of plastic bottle. Flies will drown in the solution. Dispose of dead flies on the bottom of the trap monthly and replace soapy water solution, as needed.

  **STICKY CARD:** (Fig. 6)

  Flies that are attracted into the bottle by the male lure will stick onto the sticky card and die. Replace card every month.

- Replace plastic lures every 3-4 months.
- Hang traps in or around roosting hosts i.e., castor, spiny amaranth, etc.
- Fruit flies caught in traps should be counted, recorded and removed.
- Replace soapy water /sticky cards as they become filled with fruit flies.