Kula Update

E. Fujitani

Kula tree fruit growers, community cooperators, vegetable producers, and area wide staff members have noticed a decline in the fruit fly levels. Upper Kula fruit growers who utilize the mass-trapping tactic have noticed very few Med-flies in monitoring traps. To minimize fruit fly build up between seasons, growers are spraying GF-120 on fruiting and bridge host trees such as loquats, citrus, avocados, cherimoya, guava, papaya, cherries and peaches.

Community cooperators who have started step #3, GF-120 protein bait applications; have seen monitoring numbers drop from 10 - 15 med flies per week, to zero - two flies per week. It is now loquat season in Kula, good sanitation practices and continued GF-120 applications will help to minimize fruit fly infestations. With peach season right around the corner, continued suppression efforts will result in more fruits to give friends and family.

Vegetable growers of zucchini, cucumber and tomatoes in Lower Kula are experiencing an increase in melon fruit fly stings. Monitoring indicators show an increase in fly populations, yet an average catch per trap day of less than two. Growers commented about the increase in vegetation and fruit flies in and around the farming area with recent rain showers. One grower stated, fruit fly damage is less than what it was 2 years ago. He noted, damage due to wind and rain is now higher in comparison to fruit fly damage. Growers are hopeful that Spring and launch of the SIT (sterile insect program) program will bring about favorable growing conditions and better production.

Kula Community Working Together

L. Fujitani

Dr. Ron Mau shared the podium with Maui mayor Alan Arakawa at the Kula Community Association’s general membership meeting in February. Dr. Mau, head of the HAW-FLYPM educational program, informed the new mayor and over 115 community members of the upcoming sterile insect release in Kula. The HAW-FLYPM display was also available with information for those interested in learning more about fruit flies and the various suppression techniques. Henry Lau and Kenneth Furukawa, who attended the meeting, wanted help controlling the fruit flies in their backyard. Together, neighbors Lau and Furukawa have over 35 peach trees and a variety of fruit trees that are host to fruit flies. They were immediately set-up with biolure traps and two weeks later introduced to the GF-120 protein bait. Like good neighbors, Henry Lau and Kenneth Furukawa help each other by controlling their fruit fly population.
Maui Catch Per Trap Day
Using Cue-Lure
02/24/03 & 03/03/03

Maui Catch Per Trap Day
Using Trimedlure
02/24/03 & 03/03/03