Heavy rains and a reduction in sanitation and GF-120 applications are all contributing factors to the build up of melon fly populations in the lower Kula region of the grid. Rainfall in the Kula area measured 3.5 – 5 inches in a six-hour period during the week of March 17, 2002. As a result, growers are faced with soil and fertilizer run off, crop damage and a wide spectrum of field maintenance and repair. HAW-FLYPM understands there is much work to be done at the farm level and priorities will need to be made.

HAW-FLYPM staff members have taken notice that growers are actively re-building their fields and salvaging crop productions. When scheduling daily activities, we would like to encourage growers to keep field sanitation and GF-120 protein bait applications a high priority for fruit fly suppression and prevention. Low prioritization of field sanitation and GF-120 applications will result in an increase in fly populations within a matter of weeks.

Due to the close proximity of farms in Kula, fruit fly suppression in one location will not have a sustainable impact, without an area wide or collaborative effort. Therefore, help yourself and those around you by minimizing fruit fly breeding habitats and applying GF-120 consistently.

On a different note, male annihilation blocking traps (male attractant with a killing agent) have been deployed in the Kula region. Baited pads in the traps will attract and continue to kill male melon flies for at least two months. Again, please be aware that this third tactic does not replace the more effective first two—field sanitation and GF-120 bait sprays. A combination of all three tactics will help bring about area wide fruit fly suppression. Be a part of the area wide team!