Sanitation, Male Annihilation & Bait Sprays Holding Down Population in Kamuela
M. Klungness

Over the past two years the HAW-FLYPM project has relied heavily on three techniques to suppress the melon fly: 1) sanitation, to destroy infested fruit, 2) male annihilation, to trap males with lure, and 3) bait males and females with GF120 bait spray. The effect has reduced the summer peak populations to well within economically sustainable limits (see Fig. 7). This year we also initiated suppression of the Mediterranean fruit fly with GF120 and biolure traps, which both kill male and female Med fly. The graph shows that we have virtually eliminated the summer peak of Med fly population. By comparison, the Oriental fruit fly population, which we have not yet attempted to control, is as healthy as in previous years.
Sterile Male Fly Releases Hitting Melon Fly Even Harder!

M. Klungness

In February of 2002, we began releases of sterile male melon flies and parasitoids in the Eastern area of Kamuela (including most of the town and the Hawaiian Homelands). The decline of melon fly populations in this release area has been even greater than in the Lalamilo farm lots. Most recent data indicates that less than 0.03 wild flies are caught per trap per day in the Eastern side of the suppression area during the peak season for melon fly. In layman’s terms that means, on average, each trap caught one melon fly every 33 days!

A test release of sterile flies has taken place in the Lalamilo farm lots in August, and another release will happen in September. This is to determine the patterns of flight. Previous data in the East grid area indicated that the flies were moving as far as 2000 ft. from point of release. This upcoming experiment will determine if the flies will move farther in warm weather and with large fields of host crops to attract them. When this experiment is over, regular releases of sterile males will occur over the entire Kamuela grid area.