Sustainability is the ultimate outcome of the HAW-FLYPM program. The foremost concern of project leaders is that Hawaii’s growers can perpetuate the fruit fly management program. The nature of our implementation plan is very hands-on to demonstrate suppression tactics, but keep in mind that it is up to the growers to learn and implement those tactics. Together we saw the favorable impacts of adopting the three basic management (three-pack) tactics: field sanitation, environmentally friendly bait with toxicant, and male annihilation trapping.

Melon fly. Significant resources has focused at managing the most important vegetable pest - the melon fly. We have been successful in demonstrating the effectiveness of our areawide suppression tactics. Many cooperators have accepted responsibility for implementing tactics to manage melon fly; others will need to follow. Our field workers have been asked to allow growers to evaluate the tactics. Their on-farm presence will continue as they perform the fly monitoring programs. Please ask them if you need their help.
Environmental Assessment of Technologies: Non-Target Research - Phase 2
G. K. Uchida

We reported in the June 25, 2002 issue of HAW-FLYPM that endemic insects were not being negatively impacted in the Kamuela and Kula area-wide implementation sites. This conclusion was based on the known distribution and biology of these endemic species of insects. These insects reside in native habitats, that occur outside of the implementation sites. They are blown into the sites by strong winds. According to scientific literature, we know that these insects will not survive in the implementation zones because of the absence of suitable food and preferred environment. We suspect that the captured endemic insects were attracted to the decaying bodies of melon flies in the traps, as well as the physical characteristics of the traps. More research is needed to confirm or refute these hypotheses. Therefore, appropriate studies were planned and are being performed to determine the source(s) of attraction. We are also working to develop an “environmentally friendly” male annihilation trap that would minimize or eliminate the captures of endemic species of insects.

Med fly. Successful management of this persimmon pest was demonstrated at the Kula implementation zone. Grower-adopted tactics include sanitation and mass trapping (males and females) with the Biolure medfly lure. GF-120 bait spray is not yet registered on persimmon, but it is allowed on loquats, stone fruits and many other fruits that occur in that region. Research performed this year showed that a combination of mass-trapping and Biolure is effective at managing medfly in loquats and peaches.

We plan to suppress medfly in loquats and peaches in 2003. Beginning in December 2002, our field workers will collaborate with loquat and peach cooperators at Kula to implement a GF-120 and Biolure mass trapping demonstration program.

Oriental fruit fly. This pest is the third of four species that we hope to control. Our field workers have been directed to transition into areawide management of oriental fruit fly at the three demonstration zones. This may mean reduced presence on vegetable farms.

Economic Assessment
R. Mau

Assessment is one of the requirements for receiving our program funds. Economic assessment comes in many forms – reduced annual fruit fly populations, crop-loss reductions, fewer spray applications or safer sprays, and positive economic impacts.

Please don’t shoot the messengers! We have given a grant to two agricultural economists to make economic assessments. The economists who were selected to perform the assessment are reputable University of Hawaii faculty. They have agreed to help assess our program.

The collection of economic data from HAW-FLYPM cooperators is a crucial element of the assessment. Please cooperate if you can. The confidentiality of your data will not be violated. Cost of production data is protected at all costs in Hawaii due to our small marketplace. Mahalo.