We Survived the Busy Summer!

L.M. Klungness

It looks like Waimea may have come through the summer without an ‘outbreak’ of melon fly. Although there were obvious hot spots, the scaling back of the melon fly control program (to accommodate the Oriental suppression effort) apparently did not lead to serious problems for the commercial growers in Lalamilo. These growers are practicing their control efforts through fruit sanitation, GF120 bait spray application, and male lure trapping. The high peak in July (see figure on next page provided by Greg Boyer) can be largely attributed to a few sites in east Waimea. These hot spots have greatly subsided as the existing hosts went out of production. However, in the situation is better in Lalamilo. Cropping of melon fly hosts in the area remains, but the increasing economic damage to the crops is not a concern, according to the growers themselves. As you can see, the melon fly population is on the decline since mid-August.

While it is obvious that the melon flies started at a very low population in the winter, they exceeded an average 2 flies/trap/day only once during the summer. Had the population been high going into the summer, we would most likely have experienced greater difficulty controlling them. The presence of 378 male cuelure traps throughout Waimea helped maintain the low winter population.

As the community program progresses, more individuals will be deploying traps for melon fly and oriental flies. This should be a great help in this battle of attrition we call the Fruit Fly Wars. To kick off the community program, the Waimea Outdoor Circle is getting involved by making traps for interested community participants. (Continued)
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L. Michael Klungness is a Biological Technician for the USDA-ARS Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center at P.O. Box 4459, Hilo, Hawaii 96822. He may be reached at (808) 959-4325 or via email at mklungness@pbarc.ars.usda.gov.

Kamuela: Melon Fly Catch Per Trap Day
8-25-03 & 9-2-03
Upcoming Big Island Events - HAW-FLYPM Training

Kohala Community Meeting
At The Old Courthouse, Kapa’a
Monday, October 20
9-11am

Kapalena Orchard Community Association Meeting
At Island Organics
Thursday, October 30
5 pm

West Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers Association Meeting
Monday, November 17
At the UH-CTAHR CES, Kainaliu
7 pm

Home Depot
Saturday, November 22
73-5598 Olowalu Street
Kailua-Kona