Kula Implementation Program

R. Mau

Melon Fly. Good news! Earl and Troy completed implementing the male annihilation tactic in the lower zones of the Maui grid. A total of 307 male annihilation stations were set at 29 sites. Twenty-two cooperators are involved. Growers have commented on the exceptional support the Maui crew has provided.

The impact of the three melon fly suppression tactics is obvious. Comparisons of melon fly population density for the periods --- and July 22 &29 (Figures 4 and 5) visually show that male annihilation is a very helpful addition to good sanitation and bait spray practices. Flies per trap days at most sites were reduced from 50-100 to 10-25 flies per day. From our experience on Oahu, we can expect that fruit infestations probably occurred. Because of a shortage of field support, we were unable to track the corresponding decrease in melon fly infestations. We are in the process of hiring additional support personnel and in modifying field priorities.

Med Fly. Halloween was very early this year. Med fly tricked some of the persimmon growers with exceptionally high populations in May and June. Fly populations crashed in July. Tiny fruits appeared on early bearing persimmon varieties. For the second year in a row, growers reported minuscule levels of med fly damage to the early fruit stages. This suggests that we can probably expect that Biolure mass trapping will again assure low med fly losses.