GF-120 Making A Difference in Kula
L. Fujitani

As the HAW-FLYPM program enters its third year in Kula, extension agents are busy teaching community members application techniques for the protein bait spray GF-120. The product is available for anyone and its purchase does not require a pesticide-use license. For safe and easier handing, GF-120 combines the bait with the insecticide spinosad, an environmentally acceptable toxicant. GF-120 can be sprayed on more than 250 crops, killing the fruit flies as they feed on the droplets dispersed on the plant foliage.

Persimmon season is over, loquat trees have immature fruit, and peach trees are flowering, a good sign for fruit flies who are always looking for a host plant to lay their eggs. Persimmon grower Tsuyoshi Tagamori is spraying GF-120 in his avocado tree to continue control of the fruit fly population in his backyard. Across Kenneth Okamura’s manicured yard with his colorful array of flowers and fruit trees are neglected loquat and peach trees, a haven for fruit flies. To protect his fruiting trees, Kenneth sprays GF-120 on the leaves of his lemon tree. Okamura likes the help and support that the extension agents provide. “Good we get participants involved with and educated about the program,” says Okamura.

Figure 5 on the next page illustrates medfly catches from before the program’s start to January 2003. The annual May-June peaks are due to the extreme infestation of stone fruits, especially peaches. However, mass trapping tactics work to reduce injury to our produce.

How Time “FLIES”
E. Fujitani

It’s been two years since the Area Wide crew of Troy Kawahara and Earl Fujitani started working for the HAW-FLYPM Program in Kula. Everyone from the crew to the cooperators in the program has come a long way, both in knowledge and skills pertaining to fruit flies. It began with workshops to educate farmers of the identification and life cycle of the four fruit fly species. Follow-up workshops cleared up previous misconceptions that one lure attracted all fruit fly species. Quizzes and hands on demonstrations were employed to help reinforce fruit fly suppression concepts. On-farm demonstrations allowed growers to see firsthand that proper disposal of culls are important to keep the fruit fly population down. Research trials showed that approximately 4,800 Melon fruit flies emerged from five 5-gallon buckets of culled fruit. Subsequent workshops introduced cooperators to the Protein Bait Spray GF-120, which help suppress the population because it kills the young fruit flies, the sexually matured males, and the egg-laying females.

Since June of 2002, melon fruit flies numbers have decreased (Fig. 6) to a level that allows Area Wide crew members to count fruit flies in the monitoring buckets versus using the cone method, which estimates fly counts by volume. Consistent and persistent sanitation practices, timely service of male annihilation traps and the spraying of GF-120 is attributing to this low Melon fruit fly count. Utilization of the ‘Kula Cooperator’s Combo’... the four key fruit fly suppression techniques (monitoring, sanitation, GF-120 and male annihilation) is really paying off dividends. How time flies... keep marking your calendars and stay current with fruit fly suppression techniques. It is making all the difference.
Maui Trap Catches

Maui Catch Per Trap Day Using Cuelure 1/06/03-1/13/03

Maui Catch Per Trap Day Using Trimedlure 1/06/03-1/13/03