Upper Kula Update
E. Fujitani

The persimmon season is in full swing: growers and community cooperators are harvesting good yields with delicious, quality-size fruits, and the best news is that there is hardly any fruit fly infestation. A persimmon grower commented that maybe in a 5-gallon bucket, there might be a fruit or 2 that has been stung by the medfly. Customers have claimed that this year’s mouth-watering fruits are so delectable that they will return for more.

Tags and Amy Tagamori commented that this is the first bumper crop year for persimmons. The Tagamoris have more fruit than they can pass around so they sell some of their yield to Ooka’s Supermarket, a local favorite. Tags laughed and said that all the monies go to his grandchildren. The Tagamori fruit orchard bears persimmon, apple, and pear with little medfly infestation. Hugo and Shirley Buetler’s persimmon yields look and taste great this year with fine fruits and very low fruit fly infestation. Monitoring data indicate that medfly population is below 1 CPTD (catch per trap day) and cooperators estimate infestation levels below 2%.

Lower Kula Update

The Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), also known as Sterile Male Technique, started on March 19, 2003 and ended on October 7, 2003. During the 30 weeks, sterile male melon flies were released into Kula fields where their mating with wild fertile females resulted in the laying of infertile eggs. Our objective was to flood the field population with sterile males, which compete with wild flies to reduce the occurrence of fertile mating. The advantage of the SIT is that the male flies search out and disperse into areas where other techniques cannot be applied.

Melon fly monitoring data shows that the average CPTD (catch per trap day) is 1.03. The flooding ratio of sterile males to wild males ranges from a low of 14 to 1 – to a high of 333 to 1. The egging survey shows 60% sterility even after the releases have terminated. Cooperators conclude that crop infestation levels are under 5%.

For the past 2½ years, workshops and field visits were conducted to educate growers and cooperators on melon fly and recommendations to suppress the pest to economical manageable levels while reducing the use of organophosphate and carbamate insecticides. Now, it is in the hands of the growers to maintain the low melon fly population levels throughout the agricultural areas.
HAW-FLYPM recommends:

Sanitation
Pick up fruits from the ground and properly dispose of them by drowning, burying with a wire mesh on top or bagging it for trash pickup.

Mass Trapping
Full implementation of monitoring traps during fruit season and trapping on alternate crop hosts during off-season.

GF-120 Sprays
Application at 7 to 10 day intervals on labeled crops for continued suppression.

The effort of everyone in the community provides area-wide suppression control for all to benefit: to be able to eat pristine fruit, generate income, and to feel the joy of sharing fruit with family and friends.

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Fruit Flies Find Their Way To Kahikinui
L. Fujitani

Peter Stolle and his wife Stephanie Ahina moved to Kahikinui with plans to live a simple idyllic life. Without water or electricity it took many hours of hard work to transform the barren land into the tropical oasis it is today. They used water catchments to irrigate their banana trees, avocado, papaya, loquat, and citrus trees. However, the drought in recent years made it necessary for Stolle to truck in water for his garden and for his goats. This sort of inconvenience is expected when you live in an undeveloped area like Kahikinui. What Peter did not expect to see was fruit fly stings on his fruits and squash. Peter and Stephanie attended a HAW-FLYPM workshop in October 2002 and began implementing fruit fly suppression techniques. The biolure, male attractants, and regular application of GF-120 "really made a difference." “I am happy with the fruit fly program,” says Peter. “Before the citrus was full of stings.” New flies continue to come in over the mountains but their population will be under control as the Stolles continue their HAWFLY-PM fruit fly suppression techniques.

81st Maui County Fair Winner

“Not one single fruit fly,” boasts Aaron Burkert. To control the fruit flies in his backyard garden, Aaron uses cuelure traps and sprays GF-120 along his borders. Burkert’s prize winning pumpkin weighed 211 pounds while his watermelon was 110 pounds. The horticultural exhibits showcase locally grown fruits, vegetables, and flowers and has been a Maui County Fair tradition for years.

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