Melon Fly Suppression Program Expanded at Central Oahu
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The Central Oahu melon fly suppression program was initiated in two locations in May 2002. When the program began, melon production had already begun, and many fruit were already infested. A summary chart of fly populations is provided in Figure 7. The impact of the suppression tactics is obvious. Within weeks of the program initiation, dramatic reductions in fruit infestation were observed.

Everyone was very encouraged by the 2002 success. The program was expanded for 2003. In addition to the farms at Kapolei and Ewa, we have expanded baseline monitoring, on-farm sanitation, bait sprays, and male annihilation tactics to the remainder of fruiting vegetable farms at Central Oahu. The new area includes three farms that encompass the Kunia growing area and the remaining farms of the Ewa area. These farms grow a variety of crops, which are preferred hosts of melon flies. The large farms primarily produce watermelons, honeydew melons and cantaloupes, whereas the small farms produce several crops such as cucumber, bitter melons, pumpkin, sequa, and long melons.

The program faces strong challenges not only because the program has dramatically expanded in acreage, but also because of the differences in the crop growing practices of the different cooperating farms. The large and small farms differ in terms of resource availability and allocation. Large farms can utilize crop rotation practices while the small farms, despite their willingness, are hampered by their relatively small available acreage.