Oahu News

Importance of Bait Spray Applications
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The Oahu HAW-FLYPM crew and cooperators learned about the importance of bait sprays in melon fly management. At an Ewa farm, GF-120 is applied weekly to castor oil plants and corn grown for seed. The practice was very effective in combination with male annihilation trapping. Both practices were religiously practiced beginning the middle of May. We were really pleased with the outcome (See Figure 5).

The map shown in Figure 6 shows the Ewa Farm during September 2002. Green rectangles depict absent corn plantings that are usually found throughout the farm. We did not realize that in August the farm enforced a month-long fallow without corn as a virus disease management practice. In September, the result of not having corn as GF-120 bait stations hit home. Melon fly infestations increased greatly in a honeydew melon crop (See Figure 7) that did not have nearby bait treatment stations. Whereas, the melon fly infestations in zucchini was very low (See Figure 8,) presumably because of nearby castor oil plant bait treatment stations.

We met with farm managers to plan for next year’s corn fallow. Castor oil transplants will be established in certain field borders in the central portion of the farm to avoid a reoccurrence of melon fly infestations.
HAWFLYPM: A Collaborative Project Between USDA-ARS, UH CTAHR-CES, HDOA, Hawaii’s Growers and Communities

Figure 7

Figure 8