

Use of Protein Bait for Melon fly and Fruit fly

Recognize the problem

Most fruits and vegetables are attacked by the fruit fly and melon fly which cause direct yield loss.

Small whitish larvae (grubs) emerge from eggs laid on fruits. The larva bore into fruit and feed on flesh and subsequently causes fruit rotting.

Background

Protein is required by adult female flies for eggs to mature. Therefore, they are usually attracted towards protein food materials and these attracted female flies can be destroyed easily.

Management

- Purchase protein bait consisting of a bottle of protein bait and a bottle of insecticide (spinosad 25g/l SC)
- Mix 200ml of protein bait with 10ml of insecticide to prepare a stock solution
- Dilute 25ml of stock solution in 975 ml of water to prepare the spray solution and spray on to fruit /cucurbitaceous vegetable plants in the morning, between 7am – 9am
- **For fruits crops:** Spray 200 – 400 ml of spray solution to the underside of the leaves of one lower branch of each plant. Start spraying one month after fruiting and continue at weekly intervals
- **For cucurbitaceous vegetables:** spray solution onto the lower leaves of 40 randomly selected vines per acre and repeat at weekly intervals
- To obtain maximum control, other sanitary measures need to be practiced.
 - Collect all damaged fruits and destroy properly
 - Bagging of fruits

Fruit fly adults.



Fruit fly larva. (Photo by Lorraine Graney, Bartlett Tree Experts, Bugwood.org)



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > **Bactrocera cucurbitae**

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Sri Lanka

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