Integrated approach against fruit flies

FACT SHEET

Fruit flies are a serious pest

Fruit flies attack many types of fruit and vegetables. By harvest time, fruit flies may ruin half of the fruit in your orchard. Fruit flies are reddish or yellowish.



Fruit flies lay eggs under the skin of many fruits and vegetables

Fruit flies lay eggs in fruit

Fruit flies can fly from one orchard to another, so everyone in the village should help to control them. A fruit fly can lay up to 20 eggs in one fruit. There are different types of fruit flies. Depending on the type, a female fruit fly can lay 100 to 1000 eggs during her life. Germs enter the hole where the fruit fly lays her eggs, and the fruit starts to rot. The fruit fly eggs hatch into small white worms which eat the inside of the fruit.

Trapping and controlling fruit flies

Fruit falls because of fruit flies, but also because of drought or other things. The best way to know if you have fruit flies is to hang traps in your orchard. There are two kinds of traps; one is called the food bait trap and the other is the pheromone trap.



Use traps to decide that you need to control fruit flies

Food baits attract all fruit flies, male and female, but only over short distances. Pheromones are chemicals that attract the male flies only, from about 100 meters away. The pheromones methyl eugenol and terpinyl acetate attract different types of fruit flies.

Ask your agrodealers if the pheromones they sell are pure or pre-mixed with an insecticide. Place the food bait or pheromone in a trap made from a plastic bottle. Hang at least 2 traps per hectare and one trap wherever fruit is kept. Check the traps often. Once you see fruit flies, you can use several ways to control them. First, you can kill fruit flies by hanging many traps in your orchard. This is called mass trapping.

Second, you can spray bait mixed with a natural insecticide on part of each tree. Fruit flies will come to the food and die.

Third, weaver ants that make their nests in trees help to control fruit flies. Protect the red ants and other beneficial insects by not spraying your trees with insecticides.

And always collect fallen fruits and bury them or feed them to pigs.

Watch a full video on this topic at www.accessagriculture.org or contact one of the people below to get the video on DVD.

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