



Olive Fruit Fly Management

Introduction

The olive fruit fly, *Bactrocera oleae* (Diptera, Tephritidae), is the most important insect pest of olives worldwide. The olive fruit fly was first detected in Hawai'i in August 2019 on the islands of Maui and Hawai'i, and is widespread in olive groves on both islands (Matsunaga, et al., 2019).

Adult females deposit their eggs under the skin of olive fruits. The larvae feed on the inside of the fruit, causing brownish feeding tracks and tunnels. Feeding damage by larvae can cause premature fruit drop and reduce fruit quality for both table and oil production. This pest can cause crop losses of 100% of some table cultivars and up to 80% of oil value.

Management

Management of this pest can be done using GF-120, which is an organic bait product containing the biologically produced insecticide Spinosad. GF-120 applications should begin when olive fruit fly adults are captured in the monitoring traps, or at least 2 to 3 weeks before pit hardening.

Using bait stations with GF-120 is recommended to prolong the effectiveness of the product. About 8 to 12 bait stations per acre are needed, depending on the abundance of the olive fruit fly. GF-120 needs to be applied every 7 days. Bait stations can be placed in olive trees at 4 to 6 ft high. Repeat applications every 7 days while flies are captured on monitoring traps until harvest. Follow all the requirements on the pesticide product label.

Watch the 5-Minute Video Fact Sheet

For more information, contact your local [UH CTAHR Extension Office](#).



The video fact sheet
Olive Fruit Fly Management
is available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AuXdTDNMdI>

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