Technical Bulletin for:

Melon Fly

Bactrocera cucurbitae (Coquillett) • Diptera, *Tephritidae* • BACCUC

DISTRIBUTION	Burma, Ceylon, Formosa, Guam, Hawaii, India, Japan, Java, Kenya, Malaya, Mauritius Island, Philippines, Singapore, Southern China, Arabic Pennisula and Timor Island.
HOSTS	Major pests of beans, bittermelon, Chinese wax gourd, cucumbers, edible gourds, eggplant, green beans, hyotan, luffa, melons, peppers, pumpkins, squashes, togan, tomatoes, watermelon, and zucchini.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult	Yellowish brown with a dark brown head, ~8-12 mm long with a wingspan of 12-16 mm.
Larvae	Whitish to yellowish, 9-11 mm in length.
Eggs	White to yellow-white in color, about 0.8 mm long by 0.2 mm wide
LIFE HISTORY	The life cycle from egg to adult requires 14-27 days. Eggs are inserted into fruit in bunches of up to 37. They hatch in 2 to 4 days. The larval period lasts from 6 to 11 days, with each stage lasting 2 or more days. Pupae occur in the soil beneath the host plant. During warm weather the Pupal stage lasts 9 to 11 days. Mature females adult prefers to oviposit in new plant growth such as young seedlings, growing tips, and developing ovaries of all cucurbits except young cucumbers. Oviposition occurs about 10 days after emergence and continues at intervals. One female may deposit up to 1,000 eggs, although 300 eggs total are estimated in natural conditions. Adults generally live for 10 months to a year.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Cuelure in a Coaster Lure Packet. Lure longevity: Twelve (4) weeks. 
TRAP TO USE	Yellow Card, Double-Sided or Back-Folded Of McPhail Trap   
MONITORING STRATEGY	Place trap near the highest point of the plant using supporting posts. Check traps weekly from the start of the flight. During the height of the population more frequent reading may be needed. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Of utmost importance and effectiveness is field sanitation. It is concerned primarily with the destruction of all unmarketable and infested fruits and the disposal of crop residues immediately after harvest. Infested fruit should be buried 3 feet under soil surface. Addition of lime is helpful to kill emerging larvae

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