Can one male lure attract all kinds of fruit flies?
No. Male lures are specific to different kinds of fruit flies. However, protein bait can catch different kinds of fruit flies.

Recommended fruit fly management methods
- Population monitoring
- Protein bait
- Male annihilation
- Field sanitation
- Biological control (biopesticides, parasitoids and weaver ants).

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What is fruit fly population monitoring?
Fruit fly monitoring is an action taken to understand the population dynamics of the fruit flies in the field to guide control measures. It is done using traps baited with attractants (lures).

Why is population monitoring important?
Monitoring tells the growers on how the population of fruit flies is changing within or outside the cropping area. Results from the monitoring exercise are used to decide when to start control and determine the efficacy of the control measures. Monitoring is also important to detect invasion of new fruit flies and their distribution.

What can I use to monitor fruit flies in the field?
Monitoring can be done using traps that are baited with protein baits (e.g. Fruit Fly Mania) or male attractants (such as methyl eugenol). Another method is to collect fruits and check for infestation, but this is labour-intensive.

What traps can I use for monitoring?
Commercial traps used for monitoring fruit fly population changes are many and include the Lynfield trap (simple 'bucket' type of trap), McPhail trap (a two-piece pear-shaped container with yellow bottom and clear top) and Jackson trap (a delta-shaped trap made from waxed cardboard material). You can also use simple home-made traps from plastic mineral water bottles or cooking fat containers.

What bait can I use for monitoring?
Traps should be baited with protein bait such as Fruit Fly Mania or male attractants such as methyl eugenol.

(a) Protein bait
Female fruit flies require protein to mature their eggs and for survival, and males need protein to mature and survive. They are, therefore, attracted to protein which can be used to capture and kill them.

(b) Male attractant
Fruit fly specialists have identified different kinds of lures for different groups of fruit flies. Some male fruit flies feed on them to attain sexual maturity. Male lures such as methyl eugenol can attract fruit flies from long distances. Other male lures attract from short distances.