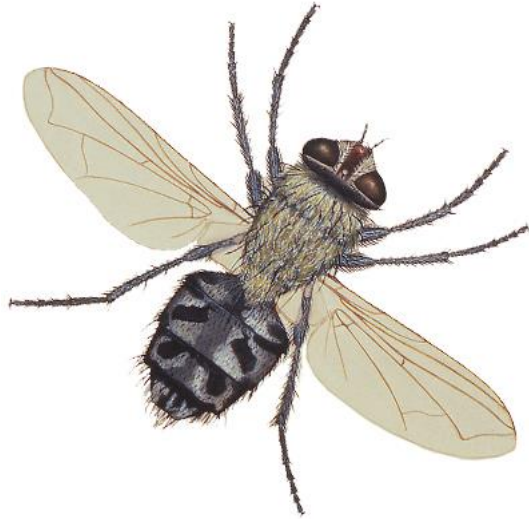


CLUSTER FLIES



DESCRIPTION

The adult cluster fly is 5/16"-1" long, slightly larger than a common house fly. It is gray in color with golden hairs on its thorax. When it lands on a surface, it folds its wings one on top of the other flat over its back. Cluster flies are slightly larger and darker than house flies and have a coating of short golden hair on their thorax. Cluster fly larvae look like typical maggots but are seldom seen because they spend their lives as parasites inside earthworms.

BIOLOGY

In the early spring, Cluster flies lay their eggs in cracks in the soil. During the summer, the eggs hatch and the emerging larvae (maggots) penetrate earthworms and develop as a parasite in their hosts. There are several generations during the summer. The adults stop egg laying in mid-late fall and seek hiding places in which to overwinter. The adult flies 'hibernate' in attics or closed in dark areas in homes/sheds until they emerge the following spring.

HABITS

Most of the flies spend the winter outside in and on fence posts, under stones and in other protected places. Cluster flies are usually a greater problem in rural and suburban areas due to the large grassy areas that favour high earthworm populations. Overwintering adult Cluster flies are an annual problem in many houses. These flies normally live outdoors where they occur on, in, or around flowers and fruits. In late summer and fall, when the weather turns cool, Cluster flies may congregate on sunny walls. They enter the home to overwinter through any available access, cracks, or crevices. In the home, the flies hide, often in a cluster in attics and walls voids, in dark corners, cracks, under clothing in closets, beneath curtains, behind pictures and furniture etc. On warm, sunny days in the winter and spring, the flies often emerge from their hiding place and swarm on windows causing great annoyance by their buzzing and by their presence. Dead flies provide a food source for larger beetle larvae and can contribute to the presence of other nuisances in the house.

Cluster flies are not related to livestock production. They do not develop in manure or manure pits. They are not interested in food, do not develop in garbage and are not a sign of unsanitary conditions.

Winnipeg

24 Poulin Drive
204-233-2500
888-768-5467

Brandon

707 10th St
204-727-7934
877-727-7934

Regina

1245 Winnipeg St
306-757-0323
877-433-4877

Saskatoon

1524 Idylwyld Dr N
306-242-5229
877-287-2340

Calgary

4801 - 32 St SE
403-272-6006
877-533-2500

Edmonton

8737 118th Ave
780-477-1671
877-477-1971

Lethbridge

608 13th St N
403-394-3600
877-533-2500



CONTROL

To prevent the entry of the flies in the fall, screen attics and roof vents and fill all cracks, crevices and other points of entry with caulking or other crack filler.

The target stage for control of most fly pests is the larval stage when control is based on elimination of breeding material. But, because cluster fly larvae are parasitic on earthworms, and earthworms are an important part of the soil fauna, the larval stage of the cluster fly is not a practical target for control. The only feasible control methods for cluster flies center around keeping the adults out of house and killing those that do manage to get inside. Inspect the sides of your house for cracks and try to determine where the cracks lead, thereby locating the voids where the flies may overwinter. Treat the voids with an insecticide dust. An appropriately-labelled pesticide applied to exterior entry points on the sunlit sides of the house in late summer or early fall may be effective. This application is made before the flies begin their search for overwintering spots in order to kill flies as they attempt to enter. Flies found on the windows can be killed with a fly swatter and removed with a vacuum cleaner. Insecticides registered for indoor control of flies can be applied between inner and storm windows or directly on the insects.

Winnipeg
24 Poulin Drive
204-233-2500
888-768-5467

Brandon
707 10th St
204-727-7934
877-727-7934

Regina
1245 Winnipeg St
306-757-0323
877-433-4877

Saskatoon
1524 Idylwyld Dr N
306-242-5229
877-287-2340

Calgary
4801 – 32 St SE
403-272-6006
877-533-2500

Edmonton
8737 118th Ave
780-477-1671
877-477-1971

Lethbridge
608 13th St N
403-394-3600
877-533-2500