



House Fly

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Musca domestica Linnaeus

Origin

The house fly is found worldwide and was first recorded in Hawaii in 1869 by Thompson; now it is widespread over all of the Hawaiian islands.

Public health concern

House flies spread disease organisms such as dysentery and tuberculosis by their feeding habits and defecation.

Hosts

Larvae feed on kitchen garbage, chicken and cattle manure, and at sanitary landfills that are not compacted daily.

Livestock concern

House flies vector more than 20 diseases affecting humans and animals; diseases affecting poultry include fowl cholera, poultry tapeworm, and Newcastle disease.

Description

Dull gray fly, ¼ inches long, with four black stripes down its back; the abdomen has yellowish sides on the basal half.

Has a sponge-type mouth that is used to sponge up regurgitated food.

Life cycle

Growth stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

From egg to adult takes only 7–10 days.

Prefers to lay eggs on wet manure and garbage.

Larvae are white, and the pupae are reddish brown.

Control

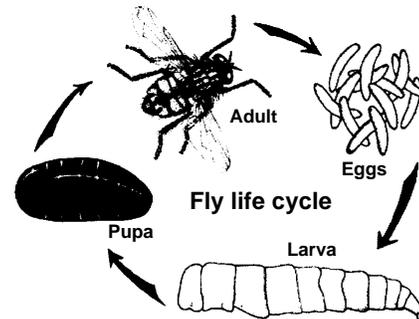
Poultry operations need to keep manure dry.

Dairy farms should remove accumulated manure especially if it is wet.

Homeowners and restaurants should remove garbage at least twice a week and keep the area clean.



House fly adult



Monitor adult fly populations to aid in deciding when to apply insecticides.

Consult your pesticide supplier for recommended products, and always follow label directions.

References

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