



Stable Fly

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***Stomoxys calcitrans* Linnaeus**

Origin

The stable fly was first recorded in Hawaii in 1901. Now it is widespread over all of the Hawaiian islands

Hosts

Male and female adults ingest the blood of domestic animals, poultry, and man.

Larvae feed on fecal material mixed with straw, organic matter, or spoiled hay.

Public health concern

The stable fly can irritate people by its vicious attacks and they cause a painful bite.

Livestock concern

The stable fly in large numbers can cause weight gain reductions in cattle because they cluster together and won't feed when being attacked.

Bite wounds in horses can lead to secondary infections and transmit pathogens.

They tend to bite livestock on the legs and belly.

Description

Medium size fly $\frac{3}{16}$ – $\frac{3}{8}$ inches long with four black stripes down its gray back.

Unlike the house fly, it has a checkerboard of dark spots on the dorsum of its abdomen.

Can be recognized by its stout black proboscis used to pierce the skin and suck blood.

Life cycle

Growth stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult

Entire cycle from egg to adult takes from 20–25 days.

Eggs are laid in irregular masses of up to 90 on suitable organic substrate.

Control

Livestock operations should remove accumulated manure and wet or soiled feed.



Consult your pesticide supplier for recommended fly control products and always follow label directions. Parasitic wasps are used for biological control.

References

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