



Lesser House Fly

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***Fannia canicularis* Linnaeus**

Origin

The lesser house fly was first recorded in Hawaii in 1901; now it is widespread over all of the islands. The lesser house fly can withstand lower temperatures than the house fly and will be active during cooler months.

Hosts

Larvae of both the house fly and lesser house fly feed on animal dung and decaying vegetable matter.

Public health concern

Can be a nuisance to neighbors of poultry operations.

Livestock concern

Along with *Fannia pusio*, the chicken dung fly, the lesser house fly can be abundant at poultry facilities and where cattle are confined; this can result in nuisance complaints from neighbors.

The lesser house fly has been shown to harbor Newcastle disease.

Description

A small fly about $\frac{3}{16}$ inches long. Blackish-gray, with three dark stripes down its back and a mottled yellow abdomen. Wings are held overlapping each other over the fly's back. Adults fly slowly in circles and tend to hover.

Life cycle

Growth stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Entire life-cycle takes 15–30 days. Prefers to lay eggs on damp, decaying organic matter. Larvae are brown, partially flattened, with numerous spines.

Control

Poultry operations need to keep manure dry.



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

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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