

Cluster Flies

Size: Adults about 3/8" long.

Description:

- Colour is dark gray, non-metallic.
- Thorax with numerous crinkly yellow golden hairs.
- Abdomen with irregular lighter areas.
- Wings sharply bent forward near tip and wing tips overlap at rest.
- Sluggish moving fly with a buckwheat honey odour when crushed.



Biology and Habits: Cluster flies emerge from overwintering areas in the spring. Mate and deposit eggs in the soil. The larvae from their eggs burrow into earthworms as their food source host. Emerging 27-35 days later as adults. As the summer progresses these flies congregate on the sunny warm south and west walls of structures. Sunning themselves and congregating (clustering) in large numbers. As the cool evenings begin the flies enter attics, wall voids etc to once again overwinter and re-emerge in the spring to repeat this cycle. A significant portion of these overwintering flies become a nuisance when they enter the living quarters of the home in late fall and warm days during winter. Resulting in the homeowner having to deal with literally hundreds and hundreds of annoying flies buzzing around inside their living space.

Make note that Cluster flies will travel anywhere within 1.5 miles to overwinter in particularly favorable structures. So the egg and larvae stages are sometimes no where even near the homes that the adults choose to overwinter.

Control: Most literature recommends exclusion measures as the most beneficial approach. This topic has merit for drafty windows, old doors, cracks in walls etc., but this is only a small portion of the equation if you truly wish to gain favorable results.

In conjunction with the homeowners exclusion efforts, we recommend two exterior residual spray treatments of the structure(s) to knock down a great majority of the fly activity before the flies enter. One application in the middle to end of August, followed by a second treatment in September (depending on the weather). These treatments dramatically reduce these fly populations before they enter the voids of the home.

Timing is very Important

Once these flies have entered the voids of the home and the cooler weather has arrived, there is very limited success when Pest Control Companies try to combat fly populations already inside attics and wall voids. You just cant reach all the flies under insulation, vapour barriers etc., resulting in limited success!

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