

CONTROL PROCEDURE PROTOCOL

CLUSTER FLIES

PEST CONTROL TECHNICAL BULLETIN



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(ALWAYS READ, UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW LABEL COMPLETELY BEFORE ANY APPLICATIONS.)

INTRODUCTION

It is not uncommon to frequently see larger dark and hairy flies slowly moving in attics, especially on the exterior and near windows. During the colder months, adult cluster flies (*Pollenia rudis*) tend to cluster on the sunny, warmer exterior of buildings and will congregate in large numbers in areas where warmth is detected.



Cluster flies enter structures through available openings from the exterior, such as cracks in siding or around windows. Once inside, they can spread throughout the structure using interior wall voids. Attics, cracks in siding and other small crevices that absorb and distribute heat properly are ideal areas for adults to harbor and overwinter until spring. Occasionally some individuals will wander into the living areas during the winter months, but they are usually noticed during spring activity.

Eggs are deposited on the soil and the larvae parasitize and feed on earthworms. Cluster flies can have up to four generations per pest season. This depends on geographic

location; however, technical calls received at Nisus Corporation are typically from the Mid-Atlantic to the Northeast and throughout the Midwest.

Cluster flies are not known to transmit disease and are not considered a filth fly based on potential human harm. They may, however, leave matter on windows and walls, and by clustering, they create huge, dark areas that are aesthetically displeasing.

FOCUS OF CONTROL

Augmenting the soil to eliminate the earthworms as a larval food source is not a good option. Adults are usually the foundation and focus of control. The best method to keep cluster flies from entering homes and buildings is to use mechanical exclusion by sealing all potential cracks around windows, doors, siding, etc. in conjunction with exterior treatments.

Exterior chemical applications are the most effective tactic to kill active and overwintering adults (next season emergence). However, killing mass amounts of flies in the interior of structures can cause a potential issue with other insects that might be attracted to the dead flies. This is why exclusion is a must for proper long-term control. A mixture of a pyrethroid and Nibor-D is recommended. Spray liberally on surfaces, with a concentrated effort on areas with larger cracks and harborage areas. Vinyl siding is a prime area, where heat distribution and harborage areas are exponential in nature. Dusting the voids with Nibor-D is a good method as well – using dusts tends to be very efficacious, as it travels best into the most difficult, hard-to-reach areas.

Areas that are ideal for harborage are not necessarily correlated with breeding areas. Understand that adult flies can travel exceptionally long distances to overwinter; however, most breeding sites are close to adult aggregation areas.



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