

TIMELY INFORMATION

Agriculture & Natural Resources

10th Timely Information



Pesky House Fly Buzzing

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House fly, *Musca domestica*, has been buzzing around the world pestering animals for 65 million years. For the last couple million years, flies have made their home wherever people are.

House flies aren't biting flies, instead, they are a nuisance, carry pathogens and thus a potential of causing disease.

House fly is categorized as one of the filth flies. Morphologically, fly has only two wings (one pair). House fly develops through 4 stages: fly, egg, larvae and pupa.

House fly prefers to eat and lay eggs in animal poop and other decaying organic matter. A female fly can lay up to 500 eggs, in batches of 75-100 eggs each. Eggs hatch in a day or two, depending temperatures. Larvae, the maggots, feed and live on the moist organic matter. When they mature to pupate, maggots crawl away from their food source to a cool and dry place to transform into pupae. Where they pupate can be far away from where the larvae were. Fly emerges from the pupa and flies away in search of food and suitable egg-laying sites. Flies have a sponge-like mouth that absorbs nutrients from moist organic matter. Our food can be contaminated by flies as they puke digestive juices and drink it up. A fly can live for 2-4 weeks.

The most important step in controlling house fly is to target on larval stage by eliminating organic matters in and around our homes where they feed and breed. Garbage should be kept in sealed bad inside of covered garbage cans, and be dumped frequently. Garbage cans should be stored as far away from your home as possible. Clean other organic items, like animal poop, in a timely manner. Do not let any spoiled food lay around inside home.

Control flies inside home: If only a few flies buzzing inside home, using fly swat kill them is enough. There are electronic swat available on market. Using a sealant like caulking to plug and seal holes and cracks around windows, doors, and roof eaves. Patching holes in screen or replacing the screen. Other products include ultraviolet light trap, sticky fly paper strip or ribbon, such as QuickStrike, flyweb fly trap, and QuickBayt. Such products should be placed where they cannot be seen from outside the building.

Introducing toxic chemicals into your home is never a good idea. Pesticide should be used only as needed. Bait products, such as Maxforce Granular Fly Bait, can be applied outdoors around dumpsters and garbage cans and where decomposing organic matter is. Insecticides such as Ryrethrin Aerosal, Demon WP, Cyper WP, Cyonara, EcoSmart, can be applied to outdoor surface where flies rest, such as the outside surfaces of barns, stables, houses, etc.