Bayer Environmental Science

Need to Know

- Straight talk for professionals about pests and pest control products

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Managing Small Flies in Commercial Food Accounts

When a PMP is asked to control a fly problem he or she must first ***identify*** the fly or flies to correctly determine what can be done to control them.

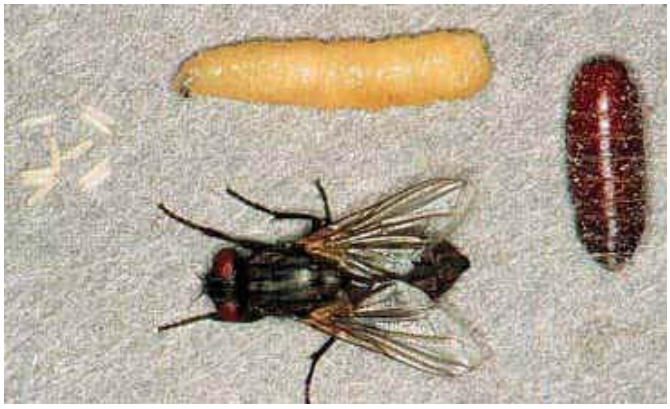
Flies belong to the order *Diptera* (two wings) which is one of the largest orders of insects with over 100,000 species. Consequently, they can be found in any environment, although the overwhelming majority of species are not considered to be pests. Of the species that are considered pests, they can generally be devided into two large groups (with some overlap): small flies and filth flies. (This doesn't include the flies that are pests of livestock or mosquitoes.)

Moth fly

Fruit fly

(Credit: J.L. Castner, University of Florida)

Flies undergo complete metamorphosis. Inother words, they have four stages including the egg, larvae, pupae, and adult. The female adult fly will lay her eggs on or near a suitable food source.



The egg hatches and the larva (maggot) goes through three instars, then pupates and later emerges as the adult. The time from egg to adult depends on temperature and food quality/availability. Depending on species, the adult fly can be found quite a distance from the development site. It is usually the adult that the PMP is targeting for control, since that is the stage that the costumer is usually seeing.

Control

Sanitation - The most effective fly control method is to eliminate their food source if possible. That is why it is critical to get an ID on the species. If the food source can be found and eliminated on the customer's property, this will eliminate or control the problem. Knowledge of the species will allow you to initially narrow the search for the breeding/feeding site(s). However, in many cases the food source will not be on the customer's property so exclusion can be used to keep the flies out

Exclusion – This requires an inspection of the building with an eye to possible points of entry. Devices include items such as screens on windows, rapid opening/closing doors, air curtains, weather stripping on doors and windows, etc. Once the flies are inside a building or if they are a problem in an outside area, depending on species, chemical control may be the only remaining option.

Mechanical – This includes items such as light traps, glue strips/boards, and jar traps and requires knowledge of the fly species, device strengths and weaknesses and customer sensitivities to develop a satisfactory program. These devices can also be used to help find the development site(s).

Chemical – Application of EPA registered materials to fly resting sites will result in immediate, temporary control. Materials such as Tempo® SC Ultra, Suspend® SC, DeltaDust® and/or Maxforce® Granular Fly Bait will result in quick knockdown. During the inspection surfaces where flies "visit" should be noted so that spot applications can be made. Following the label, apply these materials to as many areas as possible where the flies may land, rest, or visit. In food-handling areas, apply the materials in such as way as to avoid contamination of food-handling surfaces. **DeltaDust can now be applied in food-handling areas**. DeltaDust can be applied in cracks, crevices and void areas that serve as breeding areas. Apply Tempo Ulta, Suspend, DeltaDust and/or Maxforce Fly Bait around trash areas as the odors and conditions around them tend to be attractive to many species of flies. A light coating of the material on surfaces is all that is needed but it will have to be reapplied regularly to ensure material is available for the flies to contact.

Contributed by Mike Chapman.

DeltaDust is not registered in NY and CA.

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TEMPO® ULTRA Suspend® SC with DeltaGard DeltaDust® with DeltaGard MAXFORCE® GRANULAR FLY BAIT

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