

# HOW TO DEAL WITH FLY PROBLEMS

INFORMATION SHEET, March 2006



Only a few of the many species of fly are common pests in the home. Some of the more common nuisance flies are the house fly and stable fly which breed in animal waste and decaying organic material. They can pick up bacteria and viruses from this material which may cause human diseases. The rate of fly development depends on the temperature but under optimal summer conditions they may develop from egg to adult in 7 days. Females can lay several batches of 100 eggs each. The adult flies generally cause the most bother to humans but the larvae should be the main targets for any effort to control these pests. The best way to deal with pest flies is to eliminate the habitat of the larvae, breaking the life cycle of the fly. Pesticides may be effective for adult fly populations in some cases but proper sanitation and elimination of sites where flies can develop will bring better results.

## HOUSE FLY

These are generally found in greatest numbers during the hotter summer months. They develop rapidly after eggs are laid in warm, moist, organic materials such as manure, rubbish, lawn clippings, decaying vegetables and fruit etc. They may play an important role in transmitting disease to humans and animals.

### **Management**

- Where possible prevent access to the building – almost all flies have come in from outside;
- Outside, remove organic waste including dog mess, rotting fruit etc at least once a week;
- Keep rubbish in plastic bags and containers with tight-fitting lids, do not allow it to build up and keep it as far from the building as possible;
- Possible treatment includes sticky fly papers (for fewer flies in confined areas), inverted cone traps, ultraviolet light traps, insecticides (but only after other strategies have been used).

## STABLE FLY

This is a common fly attacking people who live near livestock animals. The flies appear mid-spring and become severe in early summer. They develop from egg to adult in 12 days, incubating in piles of moist, decaying plant material like grass clippings, hay and silage, particularly where these are mixed with manure and urine. They feed on the blood of animals and can give a painful bite but are not thought to be major carriers of disease.

### **Management**

- Remove grass clippings or incorporate them into compost heaps, which should be turned over regularly;
- Protect dogs and horses with insect repellants applied every other day (these do not provide long-term control).

## CLUSTER FLY

These flies live harmlessly outside in summer but may enter buildings in autumn to hibernate and can become a severe nuisance. Large numbers of flies produce a sickly smell and, if warmed up during their hibernation, may emerge and cause a nuisance to humans.

### **Management**

- Vacuum them up when found to reduce future populations.

Information taken from the University of California "Integrated Pest Management Programme"

**If you have an infestation of flies, please contact the Customer Contact Team on 01258 454111**