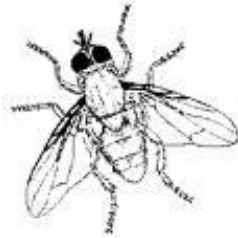


Cluster Flies

(pollenia rudis)



Cluster flies are large black pesky flies that show up from late fall through early spring. Their name describes their habit of clustering in large numbers, particularly in attics. They are slightly larger than a house fly. **Cluster flies actually develop inside the bodies of earthworms.** The female lays her eggs in the soil. Upon hatching in a few days the larva locates an earthworm, penetrates its body and develops there.

Cluster flies enter houses and other shelters in the fall. They tend to cluster in large numbers at windows, ceiling or other high places. While they are highly annoying they do not damage structures and are not known to carry disease. They live outdoors and feed on nectar until they enter buildings to hibernate as it gets colder. Rather than fly through open doors or windows they tend to crawl through small openings. They may first gather on the outside of the warm side of a building during the day. The overwintering adults are concealed and not known until they begin emerging in large numbers.



The **FACE FLY** (musca autumnalis)

Face flies look similar to cluster flies and they are also found in attics in large numbers on occasion. Adults lay their eggs only in fresh undisturbed cattle manure. They adults feed on the secretions around the face of cattle.



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