

# PEST ADVISOR

A Canadian Publication for the PMP Industry



## CLUSTER FLIES

(Diptera: Calliphoridae)

Overwintering adults of the cluster fly, *Pollenia rudis* Fab. are an annual problem in many houses. Cluster flies are slightly larger and darker than house flies, and have a coating of short golden hair on their thorax. These flies normally live outdoors where they occur on flowers and fruits. In late summer and fall, when the weather turns cool, cluster flies may congregate on sunny walls. They enter the home to overwinter through any available access. In the home, the flies hide, often in a cluster in attics and wall voids, in dark corners, cracks,



under clothing in closets, beneath curtains, behind pictures and furniture etc. On warm, sunny days in the winter and spring, the flies often emerge from their hiding place and swarm on windows causing great annoyance by their buzzing and by their presence. Dead flies provide a food source for larder beetle larvae and can contribute to the presence of other nuisance insects in the house.

In April cluster flies lay their eggs singly in cracks in the soil. During the summer, the eggs hatch and the emerging larvae (maggots) penetrate earthworms and develop as a parasite in its host. There are several generations during the summer. The adults stop egg laying in late August and September, and seek hiding places in which to overwinter. Most of the flies spend the winter outside in and on fenceposts, under stones, and in other protected places. Cluster flies are usually a greater problem in rural and suburban areas due to the large grassy areas that favour high earthworm populations.

### CONTROLS:

To prevent the entry of the flies in the fall, screen attics and roof vents and fill all cracks, crevices and other points of entry with caulking or other crack filler. Tighten baseboards and quarter round. Flies found on the windows can be killed with a fly swatter and removed with a vacuum cleaner. Insecticides registered for indoor control of flies can be applied between inner and storm windows or directly on insects.

Planting tall vegetation on the south and west sides of the house will reduce the attractiveness of these walls to flies seeking warmth and shelter in fall. A registered pesticide sprayed on the sunny walls of the house may help.

Treatment of sod areas near houses to control earthworms is not effective since adult flies can travel long distances.

**FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFE USE AND EFFICACY OF EACH PESTICIDE PRODUCT.**

Cluster flies are not related to livestock production. They do not develop in manure or manure pits.

**They are not interested in food, do not develop in garbage, and are not a sign of unsanitary conditions.**

H.W. Goble/W.A. Attwater/R.T. Wukasz

### PEST DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

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### LOOK FOR...

- Rodent Control

**IN FUTURE ISSUES**



## Flying Insect Control Lights – An environmentally friendly method of resolving photo-positive flying insect problems.

Brute force engineering is a thing of the past; today products are designed to perform a specific purpose, so it is essential that their function be clearly defined. This is especially true in the Pest Control Industry with so many chemical and aerosol products being banned or strictly regulated. The Professional Pest Control Operator must select environmentally friendly insect control products to precisely meet the requirements of each client's installation.

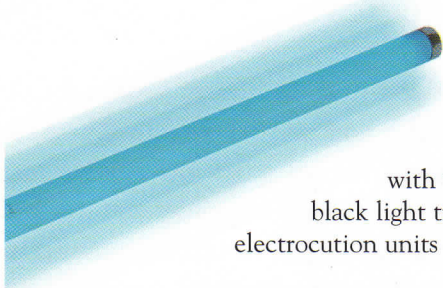


Photo-positive flying insects such as houseflies can be effectively controlled with two types of fluorescent black light traps. High Voltage electrocution units and Glue Board units.

High Voltage Flying Insect Control units equipped with fluorescent black lamps attract flies into the light fixture. When the flies come into close proximity or touch the high voltage grid they are immediately electrocuted and fall into a collection tray. This type of unit is very efficient and economical to operate. However they may not be considered acceptable for applications where the "zapping" noise or odor is objectionable.

Glue Board Flying Insect Control units equipped with fluorescent black lamps, attract flies into the light fixture where they are captured once they physically touch the adhesive coated glue board. This type of unit is not quite as efficient as a high voltage unit, but provides a clean, odorless and silent installation suitable for use in sensitive areas, such as restaurants, hospitals, offices, and schools.

To provide proper recommendations it is essential for the Professional Pest Control Operator to prepare a survey of the client's facility and be fully aware of the extent of the pest control problem. Recommendations can vary significantly depending on the client's expectations. Some clients only want a minimal control system, whereas other clients may want a very elaborate system that monitors all areas of their facility, where every item and insect captured is scrupulously identified, counted and location recorded.

Every pest control system recommendation should evaluate the clients' housekeeping practices to prevent or eliminate insects from breeding in dumpsters, garbage cans, floor drains, processing equipment, and storage areas. Cleanliness in all areas in and outside the client's facility will prevent and minimize many pest control problems.

The pest control system survey should consider all possible insect entry points and flight patterns. Air currents, both outside and inside the facility should also be considered.

There are some basic rules of thumb for effective placement of Flying Insect Control Lights:

- Do not mount units in front of windows.
- Do not locate units so they compete with mercury vapour lamps.
- Do not mount units so they attract insects into the building.
- Do not locate units in very breezy areas or passageways.
- Try to mount in shadowed area.
- Mount units from 2 to 6 feet above the floor.
- Mount units in areas where the temperature is comfortable for humans.
- Mount units on sidewalls of large entrance openings into building.

In evaluating Flying Insect Control Lights, there are small but very significant features that make some units more effective and functional than others. Both High Voltage electrocution units and Glue Board units use a specific wavelength of ultraviolet energy emitted from fluorescent black lights to attract insects. This energy is intensified when diffused and is more effective than the direct energy from the lamp. Anodized aluminum is the most effective, reasonably priced material to reflect and intensify this attractant force. Units utilizing reflectors of this material are more effective.

Units constructed of anodized aluminum are rust resistant for long life, and much lighter in weight than units constructed of coated steel, so they are easier to mount and handle.

Glue Board units are generally located in sensitive areas so it is essential they are aesthetically designed where unsightly captured flies are not visible to the public.

A very important factor with Glue Board units is the quality of the adhesive. Glue boards are subjected to high intensity ultraviolet energy so the adhesive must be formulated with UV stabilizers to retain its sticky characteristics for at least 30 days to be effective.

Flies are very dirty, disease-spreading pests, so installing a pest control system is not an expense, it's a health and environment investment.

Douglas Naylor  
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