



Product Update April 2008

Cluster Fly control Backed by Bayer

In the late winter or early spring, adult cluster flies (*Pollenia rudis* F.) will 'magically' appear in windows, in light fixtures or on ceilings of brightly lit rooms. The flies are frequently reported as 'big house flies' that are slow, lethargic and easy to swat and kill. Unlike other large related flies, cluster flies are not pests of decaying organic matter. They lay their eggs in cracks in soil in autumn and then seek to overwinter in structures. The emerging maggots feed on worms.

Once inside the adult flies will go dormant inside wall voids, attics and other building spaces. It is not unusual to find thousands of overwintering flies 'clustered' together in a void of only a few square feet. On sunny days in late winter or early spring, growing warmth in the infested void will cause some adults to become active. Looking to escape, they will seek out bright lit areas, thus appearing in windows and light fixtures of suspended ceilings. The most effective means of controlling cluster flies, although often difficult is physical exclusion. Seal cracks around doors and windows. Screen vents and soffit openings. Seal around trim work to exclude fly entry points. If cluster flies are a problem you can assume that they will be a twice a year problem on the way into the building and on the way out!



Natural sites for overwintering include; under tree bark, in tree holes, and caves. Structures offer cluster flies very favourable overwintering shelter. Flies will congregate on the southern and western exposures of buildings as autumn day temperatures drop. Sensitive to heat sources, the adult flies will enter buildings through any crack or opening that exists into the structure.

Cluster flies commonly enter buildings; around door and window frames, through eaves and soffits, through vents and along unsealed trim work.

Insecticide Applications

Insecticides have demonstrated effective control of cluster flies when applied at times of activity Coopex[®] Smoke Generators will effectively control flies on the wing (in flight). Residual insecticides such as K-Othrine[®] (WG or SC10) or Ficam[®] W can be applied onto landing sites (resting areas) in and around buildings where cluster flies may enter the premises.

Dormant cluster flies can be physically removed with a vacuum cleaner. Be prepared for removing significant amounts of insects!

For further information on all Bayer products visit:
www.pestcontrol-expert.com



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