

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Narcissus Bulb Fly

Scientific Name: *Meroden equestis*

Order and Family: Diptera: Syrphidae

Size and Appearance: Maggots are plump, off-white, wrinkled larvae that live in the bulbs of the hosts. Once they pupate, they form a dirt brown/yellow, wrinkled pupa that is still plump in form. Adults emerge as bumble bee look-alikes with coloration ranging from browns to blacks with yellow accents. Wing veins have a structure that includes a “sock” shape.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		Laid in soil cracks around plant stems after flowers have died back.
Larva/Nymph		Considered a large maggot. Plump, off or dirty-white, markedly wrinkled, lacks distinct head capsule and lives in the bulbs of host.
Adult	12mm – 14mm	Hairy, mimics appearance of bumble bees, coloration ranging from browns to blacks with yellow accents. Wing veins include a “sock-like” shape.
Pupa (if applicable)		Plump dirt brown/yellow in color, wrinkled.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Larvae are chewing feeders.

Host plant/s: Feeds upon daffodil, lily, narcissus, hyacinth, amaryllis, tulip, and other bulbs that are less frequently infested.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Adult flies do not pose significant damage to the plants. The larvae that tunnel and feed within the bulbs of the plants weaken the plants and can kill them. This is because they often make the bulbs susceptible to rotting from their feeding.

References:

Narcissus Bulb Fly (n.d.). Colorado Insect of Interest (n.d.).

<http://bspm.agsci.colostate.edu/files/2013/04/Narcissus-Bulb-Fly.pdf>

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs*. Princeton University Press.