

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** By Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Common Name:** Blow Fly

**Scientific Name:** *Calliphoridae spp.*

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Calliphoridae

**Size and Appearance:** Adult members of the *Calliphoridae* family are about 4-16 mm in length with a metallic blue, green, or dull gray body color. The flies feature feathery antennae, sponging mouthparts, and a distinct forward angle in the 4<sup>th</sup> longitudinal wing vein. Maggots are 9-22 mm in length, lacking both legs and eyes, and have a pair of hooks on the head region. They can range in color from white to dark yellow.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1.2 mm in length	White, round, eggs are laid on larval food source. 2,373 can be laid by one female.
Larva/Nymph	9-22 mm in length depending on instar	White to yellow, cylindrical, hooks on head, legless, eyeless, 3 instars.
Adult	4-16 mm long	Females are larger than males. Metallic green or blue or dull gray in color. Feathery antennae, sponging mouthparts, forward-facing angle in 4 <sup>th</sup> longitudinal wing vein. R(5) cell in wing narrowed as result.
Pupa (if applicable)	5-18 mm long	Pupal cased formed from the last larval skin and is yellowish-brown in color.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Sponging

**Host /s:** *Calliphora spp.* feed on animal carcasses, manure, decaying vegetation, and garbage. Generalist feeders.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Blow flies are nuisance pests that are attracted to homes due to warmer temperatures, dog manure, and dead rodents. Due to feeding habits, likely they carry and transmit pathogens of *E. coli*, cholera, plague, tuberculosis, and tularemia.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Flies (non-biting)- Blow Flies. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (6.1.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Triplehorn, C., Johnson, N., Borror and Delongs Introduction to the Study of Insects. Brooks/Cole, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2005. Pp. 672 & 729-730.