

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 4th 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 th 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, 7th Ed. 2005. Pp. 672 & 729-730.