

# Pest Profile



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

**Common Name:** Flesh Fly

**Scientific Name:** *Various*

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Sarcophagidae

**Size and Appearance:** Adult flesh flies range in size from about 6-18 mm in length, dull black coloration, red eyes, 3 stripes on thorax, checkered pattern on abdomen, and the tip of the abdomen is usually pink. Maggots are translucent white to yellow in color, 9.5-20 mm in length, leg and eyeless, and have a large rounded last segment. The maggots also have 2 dark hooks for feeding.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	N/A	Larviparous- give birth to live maggots instead of laying eggs. Laid on larval food material, usually excrement.
Larva/Nymph	9.5-20 mm in length depending on instar	White to yellow, cylindrical, 2 dark hooks for mouthparts, legless, eyeless, large round final segment. 3-4 instars.
Adult	6-18 mm long	Shiny black thorax, brown abdomen and head, brown compound eyes, yellow antennae and mouthparts, iridescent wings.
Pupa (if applicable)	8-20 mm long	Pupal case is hardened, reddish-brown, and consists of final larval skin. Takes place in usually the top 2 inches of soil surface.

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

**Host /s:** Flesh flies feed on excrement, decaying flesh, or garbage. Some species are parasitic and will feed on other animals.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Flesh flies can vector several diseases as well as produce dermal myiasis (parasitic infestation of skin) in humans. If ingested with infested food, can cause lesions in intestinal tract and related issues. Vectors of polio, Theiler's mouse encephalomyelitis, E. coli, Salmonella, tapeworms, and Streptococcus.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Flies (Non-Biting)- Flesh Fly. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (6.4.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Diaz, L.A., Kaufman, P.E. (September 2011). Flesh Fly. University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology. Retrieved on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from [http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/flies/sarcophaga\\_crassipalpis.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/flies/sarcophaga_crassipalpis.htm)