

# Pest Profile



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

**Common Name:** Cluster Fly

**Scientific Name:** *Pollenia spp.*

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Calliphoridae

**Size and Appearance:** Cluster flies are about 8 mm long with dark gray coloration. They have yellow hairs covering thorax, lighter areas present on abdomen, dull compound eyes, and are known to produce a honey odor when crushed. Maggots are white, 8-11 mm in length, leg and eyeless, and have 2 dark hooks for feeding.

	<b>Length (mm)</b>	<b>Appearance</b>
<b>Egg</b>	<b>1 mm</b>	<b>Oval, white, laid in cracks and crevices in soil.</b>
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	<b>8-11 mm in length depending on instar and species</b>	<b>White, pair of hooks for feeding, lacking eyes and legs. 3-4 Instars.</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>8 mm long</b>	<b>Gray coloration with 3 stripes on thorax, often on abdomen as well. Red eyes, visible proboscis, bristle-like hairs, 3-segmented antennae.</b>
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	<b>8-10 mm long</b>	<b>Pupal case is hardened, reddish-brown, and consists of final larval skin. Takes place within earthworm host.</b>

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

**Host /s:** Cluster flies feed exclusively on earthworm species. Maggots enter through body wall of worm and carry out all instars and pupation within.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Cluster flies, hence their name, tend to gather in large groups on windows, around doors, and other areas within structures. They are a nuisance pest as they often attempt to overwinter indoors in large numbers.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Flies (Non-Biting)- Cluster Flies. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (6.2.1-3). National Pest Management Association International.

Jacobs, S. (January 2014). Cluster Flies. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Entomology. Retrieved on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/cluster-flies>