

FRUIT FLY

IDENTIFICATION

Adult fruit flies can be identified by their small body and color. The body of an adult fruit fly is about 1/8-inch long and their color varies from light yellow to brownish black. The most distinguishing feature, however, are their red eyes.



HABITS

Fruit flies have an extremely high reproductive rate. At one time, a female can lay as many as 500 eggs. Newly emerged adult males can mate in as little as two days. Fruit flies lay their eggs on the surface of fruits, vegetables, and damp organic decomposition such as bananas, potatoes, grapes, dirty mops and rags, and spilled pop and beer. The larvae feed on decomposing organic material. As adults are ready to pupate, they move to drier areas. The life cycle of a fruit fly depends on the temperature in which they live. At sixty-four degrees Fahrenheit, fruit flies can live eighteen to twenty days. When temperatures are at seventy-seven degrees, they can live eight to ten days.

ENVIRONMENTAL ALTERATIONS

Sanitation is the highest priority when dealing with fruit flies. Cleaning or removing all possible areas where there may be breeding. These areas include damp or dirty surfaces and on organic decaying matter.

Possible alterations to a fruit fly infestation would include complete drying of counter top cracks and edges of garbage disposals, hang drying mops, daily cleaning of rags and sponges, cleaning of floor drain covers, daily changing and cleaning of garbage cans and liners, and hosing down of dumpsters and entrance areas. Overripe fruits and vegetables can attract fruit flies, so they should be removed. Fruits and vegetables that are kept for extended periods of time should be refrigerated or kept in tightly sealed containers.

PROVIDED SERVICES

Insecticides combined with sanitation is essential to solve a fruit fly problem. Liquid insecticides can be applied to breeding grounds while aerosol insecticides can be used to eliminate any lingering adult fruit flies. In addition, light traps and flypaper can be used to complete the fly programs.

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