

## Cluster Flies

**Typical Location When Observed:** In homes from late September through April. This is the most common indoor fly of buildings during the cool months.

**Geographic Location:** Potentially statewide where earthworms are present. Most severe infestations occur in higher elevation communities.

**Importance/Damage:** Nuisance pest within homes



Cluster fly

**Distinguishing Features:** General color is grayish-brown and it is typical house fly size (6-9 mm). Golden tangled hairs on the prothorax are useful for identifying cluster flies. (Note: These hairs readily rub off and may be largely absent in poorly handled samples.)

**Look-Alikes:** Some other blow flies (*Phormia regina*, *Calliphora* species) will winter in the adult stage and sometimes occur in homes during the winter months. These flies lack the golden hairs on the thorax that characterize cluster flies.

**General Life History and Habits:** Cluster flies develop as a parasite of earthworms. They are not associated with garbage, carrion or other foods typically associated with blow flies.

**Resources:** This insect is also mentioned in Extension Fact Sheet 5.502, *Flies in the Home*.

**Scientific Name:** *Pollenia* species

**Order:** Diptera (True Flies)

**Family:** Calliphoridae (Blow Flies)



Cluster fly

Actual Length

Version: July 29, 2009