

MONITORING GUIDE

CLUSTER FLY

Pollenia rudis

Cluster Fly
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Suggested Trap

Cluster Buster Trap



Product No. 2050220

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Cluster Fly (*Pollenia rudis*) is a common pest across Canada and most of the United States, as well as in Europe and certain other parts of the world. The name comes from this insect's habit of forming clusters of individuals that over-winter in attics and wall voids of buildings. As the temperature increases in spring, their winter-dormancy is broken and they start to actively seek the light in their attempt to get outside again in order to mate. As a result they are frequently found on windowpanes during this spring period, and also again in the early fall, when they re-enter the buildings. It is interesting to note that they often return to the same building to hibernate every year. Compared to the House Fly, their movements tend to be more sluggish.

The best control method is to carefully caulk and seal all entrances to attics and wall voids during the summer months, but this is extremely difficult to do well and as a result, protective chemical barriers are often applied to the outsides of the building as a repellent and poison for the incoming flies. Spraying into the wall voids is not recommended since the dead flies will simply attract and encourage attacks by dermestid beetles within those voids, and spraying inside the living areas of homes is often not acceptable either.

Once the flies become active inside a house, the only tools left are fly swatters and vacuum cleaners – or rather that was the case, before the '**Cluster Buster**' - a newly developed Canadian monitoring trap.

This amazing trap contains a very finely ground powder made from eggshells, and as the flies enter the trap, they become coated in the powder, which acts like quicksand, rapidly smothering them. The trap, which is attached to the glass at the bottom, inside edge of a window, works continuously 24 hours per day and can hold up to 1000 flies. Since it is non-toxic, it can be disposed of easily in the household garbage after it is taken down.

TRAP PLACEMENT

- Select which windows you need to trap, and clean an area at the lower edge of the glass pane where you will attach the trap (usually a corner).
- Hold the trap in a horizontal position, with the sealed entrance slot on the upper side. Shake it sideways and lightly tap the sides to get the powder level inside the trap.
- Remove the protective paper from the 2-sided tape on the back of the trap and firmly attach the trap to the glass.
- **Very slowly** remove the foam pad from the slot on the upper side of the trap

Note: Because the powder in the trap is exceptionally light, it will create a dust if disturbed or spilled. Although the powder is non-toxic, it can make a mess if the trap is tampered with or pulled off the window roughly. Avoid vacuuming near the slot, since this may suck out the powder contents.

The use of powder in an insect trap is a newly patented concept that makes the '**Cluster Buster**' a good example of an IPM tool that not only complements, but also monitors the effectiveness of other treatments. The '**Cluster Buster**' is made entirely from recycled materials, and is an excellent choice for use in residential and commercial building.

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