



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Information sheet number 35 - The Blue Bottle (Blowfly)



Appearance:

Blue Bottles 11mm long, wingspan 25mm, bristly body dull metallic blue, Green Bottles bright metallic green. Stiff bluish transparent wings, very large compound eyes.

Breeding:

Blue Bottles and Green Bottles flies mate and egg laying commences 4 days later, up to 600 eggs laid in clusters in fresh or older meat, meat products and offal. These hatch out 18-48 hours at 18-20°C game is singled out. They feed for 8-11 days and the larvae moult 3 times, larvae grow to 18mm. They wander off to pupate anything up to 100 metres away preferably in soil and the pupae is approx. 10mm and a dull mahogany brown and at 18-20°C the fly emerges 2 weeks later. The adults live for 35 days. The life cycle is rapid taking only 13-25 days to complete.

Food:

Any meat product especially game and bacon products. Flesh flies prefer dead & decaying animal matter and carrion. Green bottles will lay their eggs in decaying matter but also in sheep fleeces especially around the tail if it is soiled, it will open up wounds in animals. Human cadavers sometimes infested in premises where a body has laid undiscovered for a period of time, they are sometimes reported in morgues also. Flesh flies are attracted to dead pigeons, rodents, road kill victims etc. Blue bottles are often seen in butchers and wet fish shops on produce.

Where do Blue bottles live?

Meat processing plants, commercial canteens and any food processing factory. They are found in restaurants, cafes, offices and any premises where they have access to suitable food material.

Damage:

This fly exploits bad hygiene practices and proofing defects, it will lay eggs in meat products and will blow food.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049