



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Information sheet number 32 - The Cluster Fly



Appearance:

6mm long, wingspan 10 mm, a largish fly with a distinctive bristly yellowish and black marked body, the mid section is covered with yellow - gold hairs, it has large reddish eyes

Breeding:

Eggs are laid loosely on damp soil and in leaf litter, larvae hatch after a week and seek out earthworms, they bore through the wall of the victim's body. After it has grown to full size it bores its way out of the worm and pupates in the soil.

Depending on the weather 2 generations are normal but up to 4 are possible, flies hatch from the pupae and live outdoors; they start to enter buildings in large numbers in late September onwards into November when the temperature begins to fall.

Food:

The earthworm is the food source of the larvae, the adult fly feeds on nectar from flowers, and they only enter buildings in order to hibernate.

Where do Cluster flies live?

South West and mainly South facing buildings are favoured; the flies will invade cladded buildings and will enter roof spaces and voids via small gaps. They will cluster on the exterior of buildings in huge numbers prior to crawling into the harbourages, in the spring the warmth revives them and they start to leave buildings in numbers.

Diseases and damage:

No disease is carried by this fly. They do not breed or feed in buildings and only over-winter in roofs and voids. Their presence can be alarming but they are more an annoyance than a threat to health.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049