

Blow Fly



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

BLOW FLY

FAMILY: Calliphoridae

ORDER: Diptera (means "two wings")

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/4 - 5/8 inches long
- ◆ small, metallic, green or blue flies
- ◆ modified mouthparts for feeding on liquids
- ◆ wings make a buzzing sound in flight



Where to Look:

Blow flies are attracted to raw meat and are the first insects to visit animal corpses. They are also seen visiting flowers in the garden.

Who Eats It?

Birds are the major predators of adult blow flies.



LIFE CYCLE COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

Blow flies lay their eggs in dead animals. They hatch very quickly. The larvae, or maggots, eat the juices of the rotting meat and grow quickly. They crawl out of the carcass to pupate in the soil.

What It Eats.

Blow flies feed rotting meat or wounds. They also feed on the nectar of flowers.



Did You Know

Blow flies visit corpses at a specific time in the decomposition process and are important in forensic science as indicators of time of death.

Role in the Ecosystem

Blow flies are important decomposers. They are one of the first species to visit a corpse.