

House Fly



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

HOUSE FLY

FAMILY: Muscidae

ORDER: Diptera (means "two" wings)

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/8 -1/4 inch long
- ◆ gray and brown body covered with bristles
- ◆ large head with large compound eyes
- ◆ mouth is modified to work like a vacuum for sucking
- ◆ feet are clawed and have sticky pads making them excellent at climbing and walking upside down



Where to Look

House flies can be found wherever there is food or garbage, in your house or at a summer picnic. They are also found around barns where they feed on manure. Compost piles are another good place to look for houseflies.

What It Eats

House flies eat human food, garbage, dead animals, rotting plant material, feces, just about anything. They use their saliva to liquify their food before sucking it up.



Life Cycle

COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

Eggs are laid in moist places. The white maggots (larvae) eat decomposing organic matter. Larvae develop into dark hard pupae from which the adults emerge.

Who Eats It?

Birds are important predators of adult flies and larvae. The main enemy of the young are parasitoid wasps.



Did You Know

Flies are suspected to be carriers of diseases like typhoid and cholera but it has not been absolutely proven because they do not bite.

Role in the Ecosystem

Houseflies play an important role in the food chain and also are contributors to the recycling department.