

# A Bug's Life

## Cluster fly

*Pollenia rudis*

### Fun facts

- Introduced species from Europe
- Overwinter in protective place as adults in natural tree holes and cavities or inside buildings in attics and lofts
- Gather in large numbers by windows
- Larvae feed on earthworms
- Adults feed on plant sap, fruit, flowers
- Does not reproduce indoors

### Identification

Adult: 3/16" long, golden-yellow hairs on thorax, checkered black and silver abdomen, wings overlap at rest

Other features: Strong odor when crushed like buckwheat honey

### Management

- Physical exclusion - Caulk and seal holes, fix or install screening, fix weather-stripping and door seals
- Trap with sticky traps, sweep or vacuum when they become active again in the spring or warm days
- Perimeter spray of insecticide to exterior of home in the fall as they begin to enter buildings



Photos: J. Green