

A Bug's Life

Fruit flies

Drosophila melanogaster

Fun facts

- Also called vinegar or pomace flies
- Breed in decaying and fermenting fruit and vegetables
- Feed on overripe fruit, fungi, fresh sap, plant nectar, wine, vinegar
- Complete life cycle in 7 to 10 days

Identification

Larva: Maggots are small, white, legless, found in food source

Pupa: Brown capsule found off food source in dryer area

Adult: 1/8" long, red eyes, 2 clear wings, black rings on abdomen

Management

- Locate and eliminate feeding and breeding site
- Trap adult fruit flies with homemade or commercial trap
- Clean residue from compost bins, trash receptacles, recyclables, etc.



Fruit fly trap: Apple cider vinegar + dish soap + paper funnel

Photos: J. Green