

Fixing your Fruit Fly Problem

Fruit flies are also called vinegar flies or pomace flies. They have a strong attraction to ripened and fermenting fruits, vegetables and garbage, both indoors and outdoors

Nuisance pest and contaminator of food

Abundant in late summer/early fall



Female can lay approx. 500 eggs

Eggs laid near surface of decaying organic matter

Strong fliers

1/8-inch long

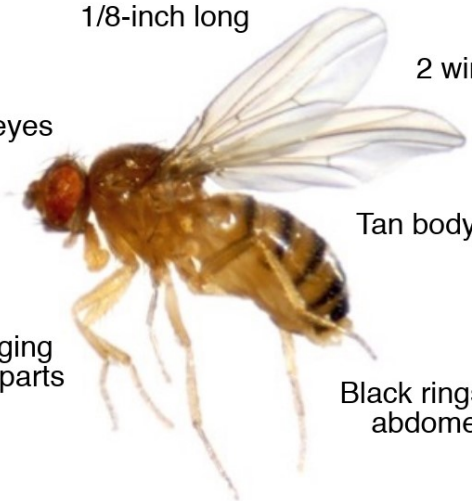
2 wings

Red eyes

Tan body

Sponging mouthparts

Black rings on abdomen



Life cycle from egg to adult takes 7 to 12 days

Fruit Fly Trap



Larvae feed on fermenting material before pupation in a drier location



Apple cider vinegar

A few drops of dish soap

Paper funnel or lid with holes



Fruit Fly Prevention

- Cut damaged portion of fruit away (the rest is safe to eat)
- Consume or refrigerate foods
- Sanitation of drains, garbage disposals, trash cans, recycle bins, mops, dish cloths, sponges, food containers, spills and residues
- Freeze compost until trash day
- Discard decayed foods in outdoor trash
- Close doors and screen windows with 16 mesh

Written by Jody Green & Jonathan Larson

Photos: Jim Kalisch, Jody Green & Jonathan Larson

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Nebraska Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

N EXTENSION