

# Module 8 – Managing Flies in Child Care Settings



Integrated Pest Management for  
Child Care Settings

# Flies indoors

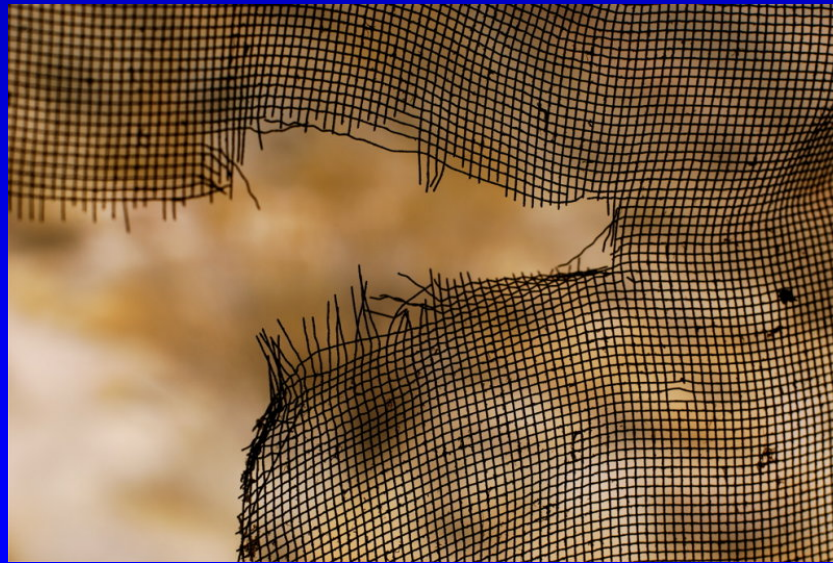
- Flies usually point to another problem, such as:
  - Wetness
  - decaying food
  - a sewage problem
  - a dead animal.
- Know or find out the type of fly to understand the actual problem.
- Solve the sanitation problem to kill the flies.

# Flies in Child Care

- Species of concern:
  - Fruit (vinegar) fly
  - Moth or drain fly, phorid fly
  - Filth flies –house flies, blue and green bottle flies
  - Fungus gnats

# Accidental invaders

- Some flies just come inside. Screened windows and closed doors will keep them out.



This screen should be replaced.

# Fix a window screen or replace it

- Video for fixing a window screen:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Repair-a-Tear-in-a-Window-Screen>

- Replacing a window screen:

[http://www.ehow.com/video\\_4419064\\_replace-window-screen-home-improvement.html](http://www.ehow.com/video_4419064_replace-window-screen-home-improvement.html)

# Identify the fly

- If there are more than a few flies in your facility, or if flies keep appearing there may be a real problem.
- Identify the fly correctly – call a pest management professional for ID.
- Flies are identified by their *single* pair of wings.

# Fly management

- Fly problems are almost always a result of a sanitation problem.
- Different sanitation problems attract different types of flies.
- Identify the fly to pinpoint the sanitation problem.
- Fix the sanitation problem to eliminate flies.
- Pesticides are rarely needed for flies.

# Fruit fly (vinegar fly)

- About 1/8 inch long
- Yellow to dull brown
- Red or orange eyes
- Attracted to rotting fruits and veggies
- **Eliminate breeding areas**
- Use fruit fly traps



Scott Camazine, Dept of Entomology  
Penn State University



# Clean up fruit fly breeding areas!

- Garbage pails
- Rotting fruit
- Wet food, food in sinks or drains
- Spilled juice, soda, beer
- Recycling containers



# Moth or drain fly

- Very tiny flies (1/4 inch) that resemble moths
- Gray fuzzy heart-shaped wings
- Larvae grow on gel layer in drains
- Clean drains to eliminate the problem
- **Use enzyme drain cleaners**



Photo by Jeff Hahn, University of Minnesota Extension Service

# Filth flies

- Many types
- Larvae are maggots
- Adults are attracted to filth and decaying matter
- Filth flies transmit food-borne illnesses



Photo by James Kalisch  
Univ. Nebraska-  
Lincoln, Entomology  
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Photos by Leon Higley Univ.  
Nebraska-Lincoln, Entomology  
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Scott Camazine, Dept  
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# Managing filth flies

- Find and eliminate the breeding area
  - Dead animal
  - Rotting food waste
  - Dog feces
- Fix screens and keep doors closed.
- Seal openings around windows and doors.



# Filth fly management

- Sanitation is fly control.
- Fix leaks and poor drainage.
- Cover exposed food to prevent contamination.
- Line trash cans with quality plastic bags and hose out the cans often.
- Do not use rodent bait to kill rodents. Flies will breed on animal carcasses.

# Filth fly management

- Install or repair damaged screens, especially behind louvers and vents.
- Install a light trap to attract and kill flies that get into sensitive interior areas, like kitchens.
- Follow manufacturer's directions for installing light trap in the proper *area* and correct *height*.

# Fungus gnat

- Dark, delicate and tiny
- Attracted to light
- They breed in the soil of over-watered plants
- Feed on decaying matter/fungus in soil
- **Dry out plant soils and avoid overwatering**

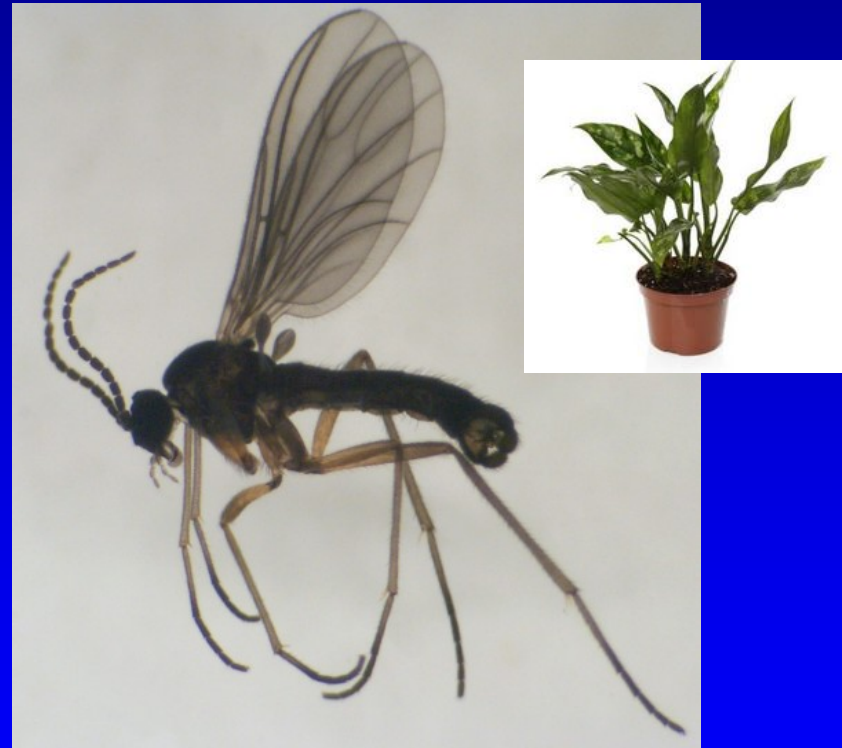


Photo from Entomology Dept.,  
OSU

# Take away messages

- Flies transmit germs.
- Flies are a sign of other sanitation problems that must be fixed.
- Pesticides do not work well for flies indoors.
- Prevent flies from coming indoors by repairing screens and keeping doors closed.