

Colorado Coalition for School IPM Newsletter

November 2017

Inside this issue:

- Aurora Public Schools
- Partner Spotlight: EPA
- Featured Pest of the Month: Cluster Flies
- Current Pests

CCSIPM Spotlight: Aurora Public Schools

By Rita Davis, Environmental Compliance Manager,
Aurora Public Schools

Aurora Public Schools (APS) began Integrated Pest Management training and sharing information regarding IPM in 2014. The program was fully implemented in the Fall of 2015 with a focus towards on-going pest problems and to provide economic, environmental, and human health benefits to our district.

Challenges We Have Faced

One of the challenges APS has faced is consistently applying IPM strategies first and patiently waiting for results. Our staff has a tendency to want to use pesticides first to get immediate results.

This year has also been a challenging year for wasps. They appeared early and stayed later than usual due to the mild weather.

Who's on Board with our Program

APS staff, including nurses, teachers, maintenance, administration, and custodial personnel, are all

playing a role in the implementation of our IPM program.

APS IPM Successes

Interaction with state agencies has been more positive as a result of the program, as well as being an integral part of current grants and applying for the Green Ribbon Schools designation. APS has experienced a significant reduction of mice sightings and general pest complaints. Since the implementation of IPM, APS has seen pest related work orders reduced by approximately 50%. Prior to full implementation of the IPM program, our staff was very unhappy with the contracted pest services.

Two elementary schools were having significant mice complaints. Using IPM strategies, the buildings were inspected and any entry points mice could get into the buildings were sealed up. As a result, the mouse population has declined to a manageable level.



At another site, a middle school, mice were accessing the food storage area. After sealing up any entry points to the storage area, following proper cleaning procedures and working with the staff to store food items into plastic containers, the situation has been resolved.



Colorado Coalition for School IPM Agency Partner Spotlight: EPA

EPA Introduces a New Guide to Implementing IPM in Schools

Contributed by Clyde Wilson, Assistant Regional School IPM Coordinator (SEE), EPA Region 8

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a new guide to implementing IPM in schools. It provides an overview of IPM and lays out the steps for schools to establish an IPM program. This is an update of "Pest Control in the School Environment: Adopting Integrated Pest Management," brochure that was originally published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1993. This edition incorporates additional concepts of integrated pest management (IPM) in schools, and addresses the roles of additional stakeholders within the school community in implementing a successful IPM program.

Integrated Pest Management And Your Schools

Improperly managed pest problems and improper pesticide use can lead to health risks for children, given the significant time they spend in and around schools. Many schools have environmental conditions conducive to pest infestations. Reducing unnecessary exposures to pests and pesticides improves health and attendance, and leads to greater academic achievement. Healthier school environments enable children to learn and produce more in the classroom, which ultimately leads to a more productive, higher quality life.

Children face increased risks to their health when exposed to pests and overuse of pesticides. They may consume or come into contact with food and objects contaminated with diseases associated with rodent feces and urine; contract diseases spread by biting insects; suffer asthma when exposed to cockroach and rodent allergens; or be exposed to pesticides used improperly or unnecessarily. Children are more likely to experience adverse health effects than adults when exposed to these risks due to their small body size in relation to the amount of contaminant or pathogen. Not only are their brains and other organs still developing and more vulnerable, children's hand-to-mouth and ground contact behaviors increase the likelihood that they will come into contact with pests,

pathogens, and pesticides.

Protecting the health of children is a top priority for EPA, and we recommend that all school districts consider implementing programs that promote integrated pest management (IPM). IPM encourages long-term, sustainable approaches to successfully manage pests. By developing a coordinated program, school leaders demonstrate their commitment to a healthy environment where students can thrive. IPM addresses not only the safety concerns of pesticide use, but also focuses on solution-based approaches that solve the reasons why pests are in schools. For more detailed information Get the guide [here](#).

Featured Pest of the Month: Cluster Flies

Assefa Gebre-Amlak

Extension Specialist, Colorado State University
Extension

Cluster flies (*Pollenia* species) are often the most common flies found in homes during the cool months and are particularly abundant in higher elevation areas of the state. They can sometimes be serious nuisance problems, particularly in taller buildings where they tend to concentrate on upper stories on the south and west sides. Cluster flies are moderate sized, generally dark gray and are distinguishable by the presence of golden hairs on areas of the thorax.



Cluster flies are actually a type of blow fly, but have very different habits than the bluebottle flies and black blow fly. They are not a type of "filth fly" that develop as a scavenger, but instead are parasites of earthworms. In spring and summer the adult flies are present in lawn areas, where they lay eggs on the soil in sites where earthworms are present. When eggs hatch, the tiny larvae of the cluster flies burrow into

the soil to seek an earthworm on which they will feed.

Cluster flies survive winters in the adult stage, but in a semi-dormant condition (diapause) during which time they neither feed nor reproduce. In late summer and early autumn they may be seen sunning themselves on sun-exposed sides of buildings during warm periods. Many of these will move into cracks and crevices of the building, seeking cavities behind walls as a protected sites to spend the winter months. In the process of seeking these sheltering sites within the building they tend to migrate upwards, and thus are found most abundantly in upper floors of buildings.

During the cool season cluster flies normally remain inactive, resting in cavities behind walls, often in large clusters. Some flies may become active during warm periods, move about a bit and may then incidentally wander into living areas, where they may be seen flying lazily about a room. However, cluster flies do not feed nor reproduce within buildings and those that move out from their sheltered sites behind walls will usually die within a couple of weeks.

Management of cluster flies: Screening and other exclusion techniques can be important steps to take to limit several types of indoor fly problems, particularly with flies that develop outdoors and use homes for temporary shelter. Tight fitting screens can prevent indoor access by many flies. However, cracks and crevices around windows, under soffits, and around ventilation openings are common sites that allow flies to work their way behind walls and later enter living areas. These openings must be sealed before flies enter buildings. For example, cluster flies rarely are found indoors until late winter and spring but typically enter buildings during late August and September. To prevent later problems with cluster flies and other "winter flies" all sealing/caulking activities should be done by the end of August, before these insects start to filter into cavities behind walls for winter shelter.

Source: Colorado State University Extension Fact Sheet #5.502 (By W.C. Cranshaw and F.B. Peairs).

Current Pests: What Are You Seeing?

Arapahoe, Douglas, & Elbert Counties

Household Insects

Indian meal moth: Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

Fungus gnats: Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles: Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

Fruit flies: Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.

Denver Metro Area

Household Insects

Indian meal moth: Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

Fungus gnats: Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles: Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

Fruit flies: Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.

Eastern Plains Counties

Household Insects

Indian meal moth: Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

Fungus gnats: Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles: Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

Fruit flies: Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.

El Paso & Teller Counties

Household Insects

Indian meal moth: Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

Fungus gnats: Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles: Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

Fruit flies: Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.

High Country Counties

Household Insects

Indian meal moth: Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

Fungus gnats: Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles: Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

Fruit flies: Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.

Northern Front Range

Household Insects

Indian meal moth: Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

Fungus gnats: Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles: Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

Fruit flies: Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.

Pueblo & Fremont Counties

Household Insects

Indian meal moth: Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

Fungus gnats: Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where

they originate.

Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles: Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

Fruit flies: Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.

Southwestern Counties

Household Insects

Indian meal moth: Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

Fungus gnats: Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles: Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

Fruit flies: Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.

Tri-River Counties

Household Insects

Indian meal moth: Adults are most commonly observed flying about homes during early winter.

Fungus gnats: Adults begin to be observed around windows and around the soil of potted plants where they originate.

Boxelder bugs, conifer seed bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles: Overwintering adults continue to be active in and around homes during warm days.

Fruit flies: Flies from overripe fruit continue to be present in homes.

Source: <http://bspm.agsci.colostate.edu/outreach-button/insect-information/> (Yard/Garden Insect Calendars)

Credits

Editors: Clyde Wilson, U.S. EPA Region 8; Assefa Gebre-Amlak, CSU Extension; Frank Peairs, CSU Extension; Thia Walker, CEPEP.

Design & layout: Kierra Jewell

“Pest of the month” photo(s): Whitney Cranshaw, CSU Professor & Extension Specialist

Want to subscribe or unsubscribe? Go to:

https://lists.colostate.edu/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/ccsipm_l

Remember, the CCSIPM listerv is a forum for you to post a message to the entire group! Simply write a message to ccsipm_L@lists.colostate.edu!

Did we miss something? See an error?

Please contact Assefa Gebre-Amlak at:

Assefa.Gebre-Amlak@colostate.edu

(970) 491-2666