House Flies

Today on Gardening in a Minute: house flies.

House flies are a well-known pest. But not only are house flies a nuisance, they can also transport disease-causing organisms.

House flies occur on all inhabited continents, in all climates, and in a variety of environments ranging from rural to urban. Commonly associated with animal feces, house flies have adapted to feeding on garbage, so they’re abundant everywhere people live.

The house fly has a complete metamorphosis with distinct egg, larva or maggot, pupal and adult stages. Adult house flies usually live 15 to 25 days.

To discourage their presence, keep garbage sealed and dispose of food and animal waste promptly. Commonly used control measures for house flies are the use of screens, traps and insecticides, but good sanitation practices are your best bet.

For more information about house flies and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.