

Fruit Flies Like Fermenting Liquids

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If you have brought garden produce into your kitchen, you probably have fruit flies. Fruit flies are tiny, honey-colored flies with reddish eyes. They breed in overly ripe vegetables and fruit.

Once inside, fruit flies will emerge from your vegetables and will lay eggs on fruit on the counter, in food debris in your garbage disposal or garbage can. They can also breed in a rotted potato or onion. Do you recycle cans? Liquid from pop, beer or wine can produce fruit flies. Bakers who use yeast in their bread, often have problems with fruit flies.

Fruit flies are attracted to processes associated with fermentation and breed in decaying fruits and vegetables. In the fermentation process, yeast acts on sugars, producing alcohol and carbon dioxide.

Researchers at University of California-Berkeley have found fruit flies are actually attracted to the carbon dioxide (CO₂) released during the fermentation process, not the alcohol. They found fruit flies have both CO₂



Fruit fly (highly magnified)



Supplies for yeast trap.

fermenting liquids will attract fruit flies, but most of us don't want to brew beer or ferment fruit in our kitchen just to get rid of flies. Instead, use yeast. Sprinkle a package of yeast over 1/4-1/3 cup of water. Add about one teaspoon of sugar to activate the yeast. Swirl the yeast mixture. In a

short time, the sugar will cause the yeast to foam and expand and produce CO₂. Fruit flies tend to be active during the daytime, so make sure your trap is on the counter during the day.

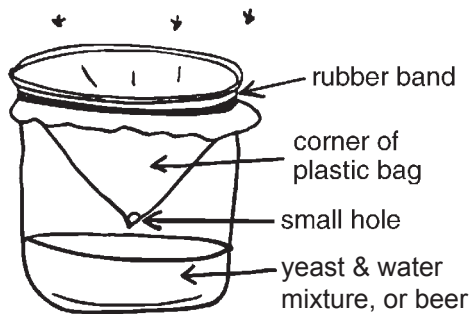
Beer will also work as it produces a yeasty smell, but I have found the attractiveness is reduced when the beer goes stale and loses its fizz.

In a side-by-side choice test, I compared a yeast trap with one that had white wine in it. I found the yeast trap was far more effective. Does your yeast have expired dates on it? I used three-year old dated yeast and it still worked very well.

Simple Fruit Fly Trap

1. Put an attractant in the bottom of a tall glass or pint mason jar.
2. Take a plastic bag and place over the mouth of the jar with one corner reaching into the jar.
3. Poke a small hole (no more than 1/8-inch diameter) in the corner of the bag with a pencil.
4. Secure the bag around the rim with a rubber band or canning rim.

What attractant to use? We know



Photos by Barb Ogg, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

Attention Beekeepers Small Hive Beetle Workshop, Oct. 27

On Aug. 28, the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*), was found in a hive in Lincoln, Nebraska. A few days later, small hive beetles were collected from an infested hive in Columbus.



Adult(s) small hive beetle—dorsal and ventral views.

The small hive beetle is native to

Africa where it does little harm to indigenous bees. In 1998, this beetle was first found in Florida. It spread quickly to southern states where beetle populations reached damaging levels and beekeepers suffered extensive losses. The primary damage to colonies and stored honey caused by the small hive beetle is through the feeding activity of the larvae.

Experts believe this beetle is transported with honey bee shipments through the mail and infested hives used for commercial crop pollination. Because all life stages of the small hive beetle are killed by freezing conditions, it is unlikely this will be a major problem for Nebraska beekeepers, but it is important for them to learn how to recognize the beetles and their damage.

A workshop on how to recognize and manage small hive beetles will be offered by Marion Ellis, UNL extension beekeeping specialist, on Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. Pre-registration is not required. Additional informational meetings will be scheduled in February at various sites around the state.

Source: Marion Ellis, UNL Extension Beekeeping Specialist



Small hive beetle larvae on a comb of honey

Photos by James D. Ellis, University of Florida, Bugwood.org

Our Wildlife Neighbors: Coyotes

The coyote (*Canis latrans*) is a member of the dog family. These predators are found in most open habitats including fields, prairies, parks, golf courses, trails and airport grounds. They are sometimes seen near farmsteads and acreages. Coyotes are also found in urban areas. They are tolerant of humans and quickly adapt to changes in their environment.

Coyotes survive on whatever food is available and easiest to get. They eat rabbits, mice, birds, and other small animals, young deer, insects like grasshoppers, fruits and other vegetation. If given the opportunity, they will kill small poultry and livestock. Coyotes have also been known to attack pets who are allowed to roam. An adult coyote weighs about 50 pounds and can easily outmatch a small cat or dog.

In urban areas, many coyote conflicts have centered on feeding issues. When people feed wildlife, the coyotes learn to associate people with food. Even pet food left outdoors and food scraps in a compost pile encourage coyotes to associate people with food. All wildlife is unpredictable. Do not encourage interactions with coyotes and



Photo by Rob Farrell, 2007

keep your distance. Coyotes are predators and should be treated with caution and respect.

Discouraging Coyotes Near Home

- Frighten with loud noises.
- Use unnatural odors (like ammonia) to clean trash cans.
- Remove food such as pet food, table scraps in the compost pile, fallen fruit and spilled seed under birdfeeders.
- Remove cover like brush and weeds where the coyotes can hide; trim lower limbs of shrubs and conifer trees.
- Use yard lights with motion detectors.

Protecting Pets and Livestock

- Keep pets in fenced areas or kennels; split-rail fences and invisible fences will not protect

your pets. Kennels should have a fully-enclosed roof.

- Pets should be fed inside a building to keep pet food from attracting coyotes and other wildlife.
- Supervise your pets. When walking your pet, keep them on a leash.
- Do not allow pets to run loose in areas where there are coyotes. Coyotes have been known to be responsible for many cat disappearances.
- Livestock and poultry should be contained. Barbed-wire fence will not stop a coyote. If coyotes are a problem, other types of fencing must be considered.

Coyotes are usually wary of humans and will avoid people. Aggressive behavior toward people is not normal. If a coyote approaches to an uncomfortably

close distance, throw rocks or other objects at the coyote. If the coyote follows you, yell, make loud noises and look big—do not turn and run. Adults should keep themselves between the coyote and small children. Contact your local wildlife agency if you observe a coyote behaving aggressively towards people.

Source: eXtension.org

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Saturday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Lincoln Industries (formerly known as Lincoln Plating), 600 West E Street
Sponsored by Yankee Hill Brick

Saturday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

State Fair Park, 4-H Youth Complex
Sponsored by Novartis Consumer Health Inc.

Some items you can bring for disposal:

Thermometers, thermostats containing mercury, solvents, oil-based paint, paint thinner, pesticides, (even banned products like DDT), items containing PCB's (ballasts from fluorescent fixtures and capacitors from old appliances).

Do not bring latex paint, asbestos, tires, batteries, used oil, medicines, fertilizers, explosives and ammunition. These collections are for household only; not for businesses. Only residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County can bring items to collections.

Still unsure what you have will be acceptable? Call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8040.