



Sciariid Flies



Leia varia © Gary McDonald, iNaturalist

Main problem Species:

Sciariid Flies (*Bradysia* spp.)

Lifecycle:

Fly, egg, larva, pupa.

Egg to egg:

About 20 days at 25°C, 13-18 days as a larva.

Scouting tips:

Most of the damage occurs unseen as the larvae feed on the root zone. We are most likely to observe adults. Adults are weak flyers so normally observed close to the ground. Normally the first thing to show up on yellow sticky traps at ground level. Often confused with other small fly species but all are treated the same.

POTENTIAL CONTROL MEASURES:

- *Stratiolaelaps scimitus* predate on eggs, larvae and pupa. As the lifecycle has a long larval stage these predators are very effective.
- Yellow traps for adults
- *Bacillus thuringiensis* drenches kill larvae when consumed.
- Agchem solution.

What do I do?

Just a few:

Sticky traps can suppress small localised populations, introduce *Stratiolaelaps scimitus* for ongoing control.

Doing damage:

Weekly *Bacillus thuringiensis* drench applications will quickly knock down a population. Introduce *Stratiolaelaps scimitus* to maintain control.

Ongoing Issue:

Remove the source, introduce appropriate agchem, then introduce *Stratiolaelaps scimitus* to prevent re-infestation.



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What you'll observe:



Sciariid flies on a yellow sticky trap.

Whitefly give an indication of scale.