

Cluster Flies – Information Sheet



What are they?

- Cluster flies breed in the ground and feed off living earthworms
- They usually appear during late autumn, winter, and early spring
- Cluster flies seek out the warmth of a sunny side of the building and then make their way in through the smallest of cracks or crevices
- Once inside they often make their way to windows where there is sun and warmth
- They are especially prevalent at windows and rooms that are not frequently used

Why do we have them in our building?

- 120 Grant Carman is located beside an empty field and near the grounds of the Westpark building
- These areas produce earthworms which provide food for the cluster flies
- The flies then make their way to the warm walls of The Crystelle and find their way in through cracks and crevices

What can be done about them?

- Exterminators agree that for large buildings, sprays and chemicals are not effective in dealing with cluster flies. However there are other recommended options:
 - 1) Limit Penetration
 - o Exterminators recommend that the only effective way of dealing with cluster flies is by limiting penetration – that is by sealing any possible cracks and crevices where the flies might be entering the building
 - o Building management is currently exploring what needs to be done and will keep owners posted about progress in this area
 - 2) Window Spray
 - o In units that are particularly effected, owners may choose to have an exterminator apply a spray around the perimeter of the windows. This can reduce the number of flies that enter the unit. The application would have to be done at the beginning of August
- It should be noted that these methods, while somewhat effective, will not guarantee the eradication of the cluster flies. The location of the building and its proximity to fields (and subsequently earthworms) are the real issues.

If you would like any additional information, please see the Property Manager or the Superintendent during office hours.