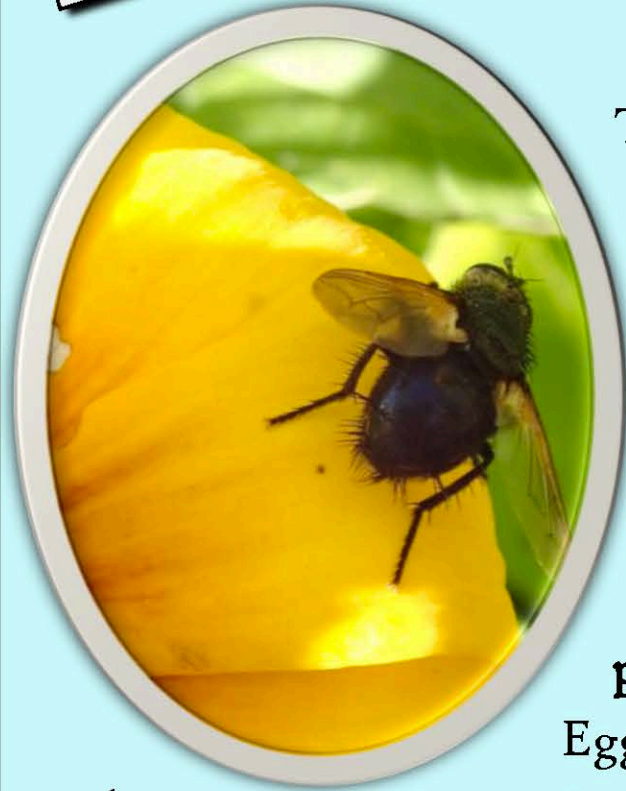


Friend

Tachinid Fly



There are more than 1300 diverse species of parasitoid Tachinid flies in North America – most look like a **bristly house fly**.

Adults feed on **nectar** and **pollen** but it's heads up when they smell the volatile chemicals from **pest-infested plants!**

Egg laying is variable: they glue them on to the exterior of a caterpillar; inject them into the body of a caterpillar; or deposit them on a leaf beside the leaf chomping pest. The caterpillar will **unwittingly eat the egg** with the leaf. Once hatched, the larva consumes the host's internal tissues.

Hosts can be cabbage loopers, tent caterpillars, corn borers, or Colorado potato beetle larvae. **Lure the adult fly into your garden with alyssum, coriander, or Ammi Majus.**

Image: Elaine Sedgman

Sources: Walliser, J., *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden*, Timber Press, 2014.

Mahr, S. *Tachinid Flies*. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Division of Extension.

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/tachinid-flies/>

Tachinid Fly Lays Egg on Caterpillar. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iY73stFQEaE>