

FLIES



INSECT TIDBITS

A small fly, called a midge, is responsible for pollinating the cocoa tree that produces chocolate.

Flies have two vibrating gyroscopes that they use for balance. They look like little knobs on a stick and are called halteres.

PREVENTION

- Flies are attracted to areas where humans are because we feed them. They live on our garbage and our pet's feces. An unclean, uncovered garbage can is capable of housing and feeding thousands of flies per week. Uncovered garbage is the primary source of fly problems. Wrap wet food waste in newspaper and then in a paper bag. Use a container with a tight fitting lid. Keep the container clean.
- Use screens on windows and doors to keep flies out, if there is a fly source in your neighborhood that you can't control.
- **Clean up after animals** frequently. If you bury waste, you must go at least 3 feet deep to prevent flies from migrating to the surface, so generally, burying waste does not prevent fly problems.

LESS-TOXIC CONTROLS

- **Find out** what is attracting flies to your area and remove or cover the source.
- Use fly swatters. There are many traps and flypaper options that work well.
- **Call your County Ag Commissioner** for information. If you have a large problem there are several biological controls that are effective.
- **Use a hot composting method** if your compost is the source. Call the Master Gardeners or ECOSLO for composting information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the Central Coast Environmental Health Project (CCEHP) at (805) 963-1622 ext. 111, or the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner at (805) 681-5600. Information compiled by the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO) and the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's office on behalf of the CCEHP.