WISCONSIN WILDCARDS

NATIVE PESTS

FRIENDLY FLY

Sarcophaga aldrichi

BASIC ID

Friendly flies are slightly larger than houseflies. Their bodies are gray with 3 black stripes and reddish eyes.

HABITS

Friendly flies are a native parasite of the forest tent caterpillar and have been in Wisconsin for thousands of years. Their numbers increase during caterpillar outbreaks, but are low most years. They will land on you, but don't bite. They are active in June and disappear by mid-July.

MANAGEMENT

These flies are no threat to people, but are a nuisance. Spraying has no effect on the population, because new flies will move to the area. They die by mid-July and are only a problem during years when the caterpillar population is high.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your local DNR forest pest specialist. Or visit http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/fh/intheNews/friendlyfliesfactsheet.pdf

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