



***CURRENT FRUIT FLY***      ***Euphranta canadensis***

This is a pest of red, white and black currants, as well as gooseberries and the flowering currant.

**Damage:** The adult fly lays her eggs in the developing fruit. There they hatch to become feeding larvae, which causes premature fruit drop. Some infested fruit may remain on the bush and some gardeners may consider it undesirable for consumption.

**Appearance:** At about 8 mm in length the adult is slightly larger than a housefly. It is yellow brown with brown bands on the wings. The larva or maggot is pointed at one end, with no apparent head or legs.

**Life Cycle:** There is one generation per year. Overwintering in the soil in the pupal stage, the adult emerges April-May and feeds on flower nectar and aphid honeydew. Then she drills a hole in the green developing fruit and inserts one egg per fruit. The oviposition hole becomes a dark spot in a red area. The hatching larva in its later stages drills a small breathing hole in the fruit. It feeds on the seeds for 11-16 days. Most of the infested fruit drops prematurely, the larvae then enter the soil to pupate.

**Control:** Floating row covers may be laid over the bushes. This should be done at petal fall and after pollination, because although currants and gooseberries are self-fruitful, they yield better after the attention of pollinating insects. The currant fruit fly prefers late varieties.

Plastic sheets may be laid beneath the bushes in June to catch the fallen fruit, taking care to bring it right up to the plant and extend it well beyond the canopy. The fruit should be collected daily and buried. Not all infested fruit falls early. Some gardeners rescue such fruit by soaking it overnight in water. In the morning the larvae will have emerged and floated to the surface, where they may be skimmed off.

Yellow sticky boards baited with apple maggot attractant may be placed inside the bush. On a commercial scale this is recommended only as a monitoring strategy, but may offer some control in the home garden.

**References:**

www1.agric.gov.ab.ca, [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)