



ALERT! EUROPEAN CRANE FLY

Tipula oleracea and *Tipula paludosa*



APHIS/PPQ
CCE
NYS - DEC,
DOT, DPW,
DOH, DEP
PRISM

European Crane Fly (ECF) are relatively large, semi-aquatic (as larvae) insects. Adults live only a short time whereas larvae may live for a year or more in moist soil feeding on organic matter and plant tissue. A few ECF have adapted to survival in the relatively drier soils away from permanent water. These species are a concern when they feed on the roots of turf or other commercially important plants. Certain crane flies can be especially damaging to newly planted grass. Of particular concern are *T. paludosa*, the European Crane Fly and *T. oleracea*.



ECF ADULT

IDENTIFICATION: Crane Fly adults resemble large mosquitoes but do not bite. Usually brown in color with long, slender wings and long legs. They are weak fliers so generally occur near permanent water and are attracted to lights during summer evenings. Last instar larvae are somewhat larger than adults and typically dark grey in color. Larvae have no legs.

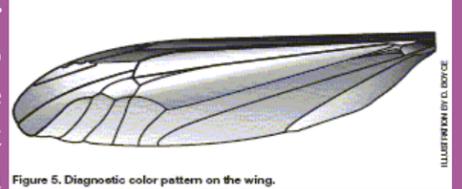
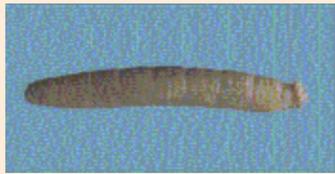


Figure 5. Diagnostic color pattern on the wing.

ECF WING DIAGRAM



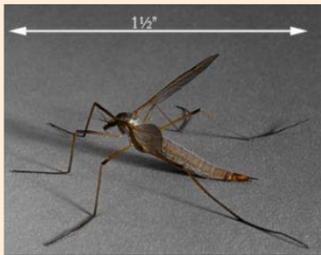
EGGS



LARVA



PUPA



ADULT

LIFE CYCLE

Design by: New York State Integrated Pest Management Program

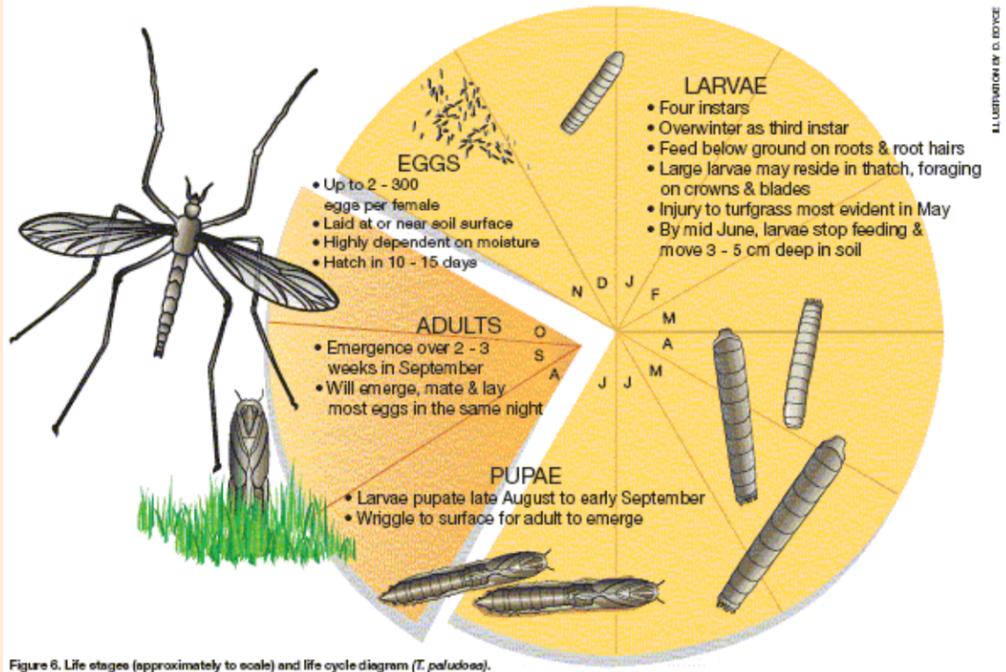
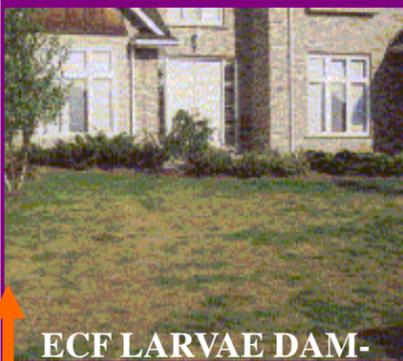


Figure 6. Life stages (approximately to scale) and life cycle diagram (*T. paludosa*).

ECF DAMAGE:

Impact reported in New York has taken the form of:

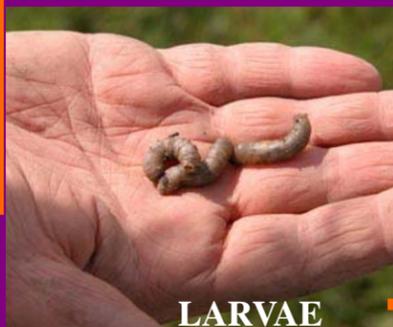


ECF LARVAE DAM-

- scalping damage of golf course greens
- root-feeding injury to home lawns
- turf disruption due to the activities of skunks searching for larvae
- swarms of adults reported as nuisance problems by home owners

Injury to turfgrass is most evident in May and is most

likely to be expressed because of larvae feeding rapidly as they approach pupa development.



LARVAE



LARVAE DAMAGE

The federal-state Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program is focused on the early detection of exotic invasive agricultural pests. State inspectors and cooperators target invasive insects, diseases and weeds considered to have a high probability for introduction and establishment in the State and the U.S. Exotic Invasives have the potential to seriously impede our ability to move plants and plant products domestically and abroad in addition to posing a significant risk to the environment.

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Check out New York CAPS
'NEW' website at
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invasive species