

Harrogate North Phorid Fly Study

UPDATE JUNE 26, 2017

Penn State University has presented Harrogate with a great opportunity to participate in a phorid fly study. PSU will be conducting a long-term study at mushroom farms in the area. In conjunction with the study, PSU has asked for our help to monitor air samples in Harrogate for phorid activity.

PSU will provide all materials, but they need volunteers from Harrogate to participate. Stakes with sticky pads (similar to the pads used in web lights) will be placed in designated areas around the perimeter and in the center of Harrogate.

Each volunteer (or team of volunteers) will monitor two to three samples close to their home. Volunteers should expect to spend 15 to 30 minutes each day for one week each month to position and replace the sticky pads on a daily basis. PSU will collect the pads at the end of each study week and will analyze the data collected. The proposed weeks for the study are:

June 26 to July 3 (this week may be rescheduled or cancelled)

July 31 to August 7

August 21 to August 28

September 25 to October 2

October 30 to November 6

November 27 to December 4

This is a great opportunity to assist in a university study which will provide useful information for our community. Please consider volunteering or partnering with a neighbor to volunteer as a team! Your help is needed!

The phorid fly study group (the "Vetting Team") is also conducting a soil sample study. You may have seen members of the Vetting Team with Mason jars and a bulb planter. The six members of the team each took six to eight soil samples from around the community - in bio-basins, drainage areas, beds mulched with both cedar and wood mulch, wooded areas and grassy areas - and monitored them daily for a month to see if any phorids emerged from the samples. Only one sample produced a significant number of bugs (about 70), but none of the samples showed any phorid fly emergence. It's too early to draw any conclusions, so the team will continue to take soil samples throughout the summer and early fall.

Recently two homes reported an increased but moderate level of phorid fly activity. The number of flies, however, is not significant enough yet to begin the proposed insecticide spraying. Based on the last two years' experience, we anticipate that there will be increased activity through the summer and fall.

If you are interested in volunteering for the PSU air sampling (and your help is needed!) or if you want to report the level of phorid activity in your home, please send an e-mail to the team at this special e-mail

address: phoridstudy@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest and your anticipated help!

The Vetting Team

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Joe Miscione, Pete Mrozinski, and Dennis Shiley