

Fly: Flower or Hover



My Home: I am most commonly found in fields, crops, gardens and weedy areas. I am found on almost all of North America and through out the world.

What I eat: As a larva, I will eat aphids or other insect pests and also some plants. As an adult, I drink the nectar of flowers or fruit.

What I look like: Most people think that I am a bee, but I am indeed part of the fly family. My appearance is a natural defense so birds and other predators will not eat me. Usually I am bright yellow and black striped. I am also called a Hover Fly.

How I am born: I go through four stages of development: egg, larva, pupa and adult. My egg is laid on a leaf that contains aphids and I hatch in two to three days. It takes about 25 to 30 days from egg to adulthood. I will live for only a few weeks once I am an adult.

Fun Facts: You can distinguish a flower fly from a bee by the number of wings; a fly has two wings, while bees have four wings.

There are around 6,000 species of hover flies worldwide.