



## Regarding the phorid fly challenge to communities in Chester County --

### How can the PA Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Plant Industry help?

- **The Entomology Division identifies insects found in PA** and evaluates their regulatory status, particularly for insects that are plant pests.
  - We understand that PSU has already identified the fly as *Megaselia halterata*. If the need arises for additional ID services, PDA could help.
  - Some examples of types of insect pests and who deals with them:
    - If an insect is identified as a plant pest that can be managed through regulatory means, PDA takes the lead (an example – Spotted Lanternfly).
    - Certain insects that pose a public hazard are managed through DEP (black fly, mosquitoes) or others (example – DCNR and gypsy moth)
    - Insect pests that are *not* regulated are in the domain of Penn State and others, to develop management strategies, educate, and inform. (example - AMI and PSU are working with mushroom growers on management of phorid flies.)
- **The Health and Safety Division can facilitate registration of new pesticides, if necessary.** This division enforces pesticide laws and regulations, making sure that products are used according to the label. If a case is made for a special local need for a pesticide that is not currently labelled for a given use, PDA can help to shepherd a product through a registration process.

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Some useful references about mushroom industry practices:

<http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/Get/Document-91237/254-5401-001.pdf>

This is a DEP management plan for waste from mushroom production from 2012.

<http://extension.psu.edu/publications/agrs-083>

This publication details pest management practices for mushroom production.