

King County Green Schools Program



Tips to prevent or reduce fruit flies

Tips from Brian Sherman, Educational Outreach Specialist, Cedar Grove Composting,
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- Use compostable bags to line indoor containers. Tie up bags immediately after use and place in outdoor collection container for compost collection.
- Wash indoor and outdoor containers regularly using Lysol and/or water. Dispose of water and Lysol in a sanitary sewer.
- Get a regular “swap” of your outdoor collection container. Once each year, Cedar Grove can exchange a school’s outdoor compost collection container for a clean container. It’s best to request this swap during a school break period such as winter break. See above for Cedar Grove Composting contact information.

Tips from Katie Vincent, King County Garden Hotline Educator,
(206) 633-0224, help@gardenhotline.org

- Eliminate access to exposed or rotten fruit via compostable bag liners or occasional washing of contaminated bins.
- If fruit flies still persist, use an apple cider vinegar trap to get rid of them.
 - Place 1 - 2 inches of apple cider vinegar (or stale wine) in an old wine bottle or narrow cup. Place a paper funnel in the bottle/cup so that flies can get in, but not out.

Online resources

- [Cornell Composting: Composting in Schools](#) – Though focused on reduction of fruit flies in classroom worm bins, this site does have resources related to how to eliminate fruit flies in a school setting.
- [How to Control Fruit Flies and Fungus Gnats: Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs](#) – Explains how fruit flies become an issue and includes tips for reducing fruit flies in compost collection containers.