Syrphid Fly  (*Diptera: Syrphidae*)

**Syrphid flies**, also known as hover flies or flower flies, are a group of predaceous flies that can be found in strawberry fields. Larvae are important predators of aphids, scales, and caterpillars.

**Adult** syrphid flies vary in size and color. Those commonly found in Minnesota fields are brightly colored with yellow and black abdominal bands. Body length is about 8 mm.

Syrphid flies are good fliers, often seen hovering in the air, hence the name hover flies. Many generations occur in Minnesota.

They overwinter as pupae in the soil. Adults emerge in the spring and lay several long, single, whitish **eggs** on leaves or tree bark close to aphid colonies.

**Larvae** (maggots) are legless, usually greenish, cylindrical and taper towards the head. Full grown larvae are about 8 mm.

Syrphid flies can be distinguished from bees or wasps (such as yellowjackets) because Syrphid flies have only one pair of wings, are less hairy than bees, and have very short antennae.