

# FLIES ARE POLLINATORS!

Many people think of flies as pests, and certainly there are many pest species. Fewer people realize the beneficial activities provided by flies, including pest control, food for birds and fish, decomposers and soil conditioners, as well as water quality indicators, and pollinators of many plants. Depending on the region, the time of the day, the flowering phenology and weather conditions, flies may be the main or exclusive pollinators, or share pollination services with bees and other pollinators. *Some of the pollinating flies: Hover, Bee (fly), Tachinid, Robber.*

The **Hover fly is second BEST Pollinator** and a great predator!



Hover fly



Tachinid fly

## INTERESTING FACTS

No **chocolate** without flies:  
For the cocoa tree (*Theobroma cacao*) fly pollination is essential for fruit production, with various levels of self-incompatibility present in different cocoa varieties. Very small midges of the families Ceratopogonidae and Cecidomyiidae pollinate the small white flowers emerging from the stems. In addition to these midges, *Ornidia obesa* (a flower fly) may visit the cocoa flowers, since it is widespread in tropical cocoa plantations and larvae live in organic waste in the moist environment.

Photos: *Tiny Wings Photos*