



## Fungus Gnats



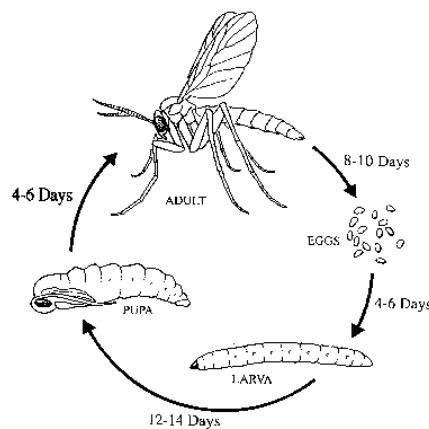
These tiny, black insects are often found in homes and offices, usually in overly moist soil full of decaying matter. The larvae of fungus gnats feed on *excess* algae and fungi in potting medium. They are a nuisance, but the adults are harmless, and do not bite. Adult gnats live about 7-10 days. The primary reason for their presence in homes is excessive moisture in potting soil.

**Fungus gnats can be controlled by allowing the top 1/3 of potting medium to dry down between watering. Check with a moisture meter.**

**Do not allow *too much* of the soil to dry out; this will harm the plant and not solve the problem.**

### Solutions:

- Correct watering over the course of a few weeks will prevent a **new generation** from being born. Adult gnats generally live for 7-10 days.
- Plants receiving less sunlight (either change of location or season) will use water more slowly. Therefore, should be watered less frequently. Moisture meters can help.
- Spraying insecticides with **pyrethrum, soaps, oils, or neem**, will have short term control; combined with correct watering, this should solve the problem
- **Yellow sticky cards** placed in the plant combined with correct watering should solve the problem
- Larvae may be killed by **Bacillus Thuringiensis-israelensis (Mosquito Bits)**; combined with correct watering, should solve the problem
- Plants in pots that are too large may also have issues with soil staying too wet



For more info, visit: [ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05584.html](http://ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05584.html)