

Fungus Gnats

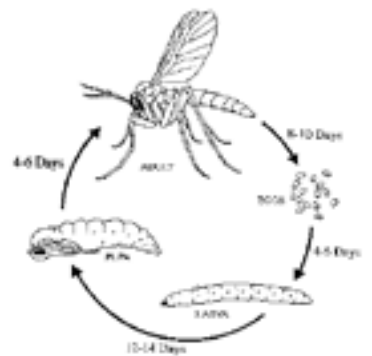
How to remedy a common houseplant infestation



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.

Solutions

- Correct watering over 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, it should be watered less frequently. Moisture meters can help.
- Spraying insecticides with pyrethrum, soaps, oils, or neem will have short-term control; this should solve the problem combined with correct watering.
- 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.



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

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

More Information

[Fungus Gnats as Houseplant & Indoor Pests - CSU Extension](#)

