



FUNGUS GNATS



Fig. 1. Adult and larva fungus gnat

DESCRIPTION:

Tiny black flying insects. Usually found around houseplants, kitchen sinks & lights. In most cases the adults enter the house from an outside source. Adult Fungus Gnats live for 8-10 days.

CAUSE:

Fungus is usually present in a houseplant's soil. Watering too frequently can cause this problem. Most houseplants like the top 1/3 of the soil to dry down. In winter, the time between watering plants usually increases.

Repotting houseplants does not help and may even make problem worse.

Plants in too large of a pot, sitting in water or having wet moss and located in poorly ventilated areas can also attract gnats.

SOLUTIONS TO CONTROL & ELIMINATE:

Water plants at correct intervals, as watering too frequently can be the problem.

- Allow the soil to dry out between waterings.
- Place sticky flytraps on plants on or around soil of plant.
- Put a bowl of soapy water under a single light at night.
- Spray Fertilome Indoor/Outdoor Multi-purpose Insect Spray on soil. Other Permethrin or Pyrethrum sprays may work as well.

	<p>Use a moisture meter to check if top 1/3 of soil is drying out.</p> <p>Eliminate the fungus and the gnats will eventually go away.</p>
	<p>Read instructions for proper application</p> <p>Gnats may be attracted to fungus in sink drains. Closing drains for a few days may speed up removal of gnats.</p> <p>Correcting the problem may take a month or two.</p> <p>A couple of cycles of the solutions may be needed to eliminate problem</p>