

Problem: Fungus Gnats**Hosts:** Houseplants

Description: Fungus gnats are small insects (1/8 to 1/10 inch long) that are common in high-organic-matter houseplant soils that are kept moist. Though adults are mosquito-like in appearance, they do not bother humans or pets. It is actually the larvae or maggots that can injure plants by feeding on the roots. Symptoms include sudden wilting, loss of vigor, poor growth and yellowing leaves.

Recommendations: Use of sterile media and avoiding overwatering houseplants can help prevent infestations. Existing infestations can be controlled with *Bacillus thuringiensis* v. *israelensis* which is sold under the names of Gnatrol and Knock-Out Gnats. The beneficial nematode, *Steinernema feltiae* can also be used in greenhouse environments.

References:

1. [Steinernema feltiae: Biological Control Agent of Fungus Gnat Larvae](#), Kansas State University, MF3649
2. [Fungus Gnats as Houseplant and Indoor Pests](#), Colorado State University, Publication 5.584
3. [Fungus Gnats](#), Ohio State University Extension, Ohioline, ENT-59

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